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Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Aide Denies Meeting With Weizman

NC0201121990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1131 GMT 2 Jan 90

[Text] Cairo, 2 Jan (MENA)—Dr Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, has denied that he met with 'Ezer Weizman, Israeli minister of sciences and research.

In a statement to MENA correspondent, he disclosed that there had been attempts to arrange for a meeting between him and Weizman but these efforts did not succeed.

PNSF's Al-Fahum Proposes Reunification of Factions

JN0301152390 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1400 GMT 3 Jan 90

[Text] In Damascus, Khalid al-Fahum, chairman of the Palestine National Salvation Front [PNSF], which is hostile to the PLO, has proposed the reunification of all the Palestinian factions within the PLO framework on sound bases to support the intifadah.

Says Initiative Not Coordinated

JN0301175890 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1720 GMT 3 Jan 90

[Text] Khalid al-Fahum, chairman of the Palestine National Salvation Front [PNSF], has stated that the PNSF command held a meeting under his chairmanship during which it discussed the state of affairs and the developments related to the Palestinian cause. In a statement to our radio, Al-Fahum added that he submitted an initiative that takes into consideration the developments under way in Eastern Europe and the results of the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue. He added: It has become evident that the United States does not favor offering any concessions to the Palestinians whereas it seeks to obtain further concessions from the PLO. It has also become evident that Israel is not thinking of giving up the occupied territories, or its arbitrary policy. Al-Fahum said: For this reason, I invited all the Palestinian factions, unions, and figures to join ranks within the PLO framework to pursue the joint struggle and to support the intifadah.

Al-Fahum explained that his initiative is a personal move and no prior coordination has taken place on this initiative either with Syria or with anyone else. He added that the leaderships of the Al-Sa'iqah Forces, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, the Fatah uprising movement, and the Palestinian Revolutionary Communist Party, which are members of the PNSF, have promised to study this initiative and the proposals it contains and to give their reply as soon as possible.

PLO Official Responds

JN0301152990 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1500 GMT 3 Jan 90

[Text] PLO Executive Committee member Sulayman al-Najjab has announced in Tunis that PLO bodies are always open to all Palestinian factions boycotting the PLO. Al-Najjab was replying to the proposal made by Khalid al-Fahum, chairman of the Palestine National Salvation Front, from Damascus today in which he called for the reunification of all the Palestinian factions within the PLO framework.

Hani al-Hasan Urges Palestinian-Israeli Talks

JN0401103490 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0945 GMT 4 Jan 90

[Text] Doha, 4 Jan (WAKH)—Hani al-Hasan, adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Fatah Central Committee member, has said that if and when it takes place, the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue will constitute a first step on the road to the international conference for peace in the region. He has also asserted the importance of this dialogue, provided it responds to certain conditions.

In an interview with the Qatari paper AL-'ARAB published today, Hani al-Hasan said: The Israeli political conflict seen these days inside the Labor and Likud government coalition is a real conflict that clearly reveals Yitzhaq Shamir's aggressive intentions, which reject peace. However, I am certain that these intentions will fail, and the Likud's intransigence will be foiled due to the Palestinian intifadah and its mature resistance.

Al-Hasan explained that international circumstances have now become appropriate for achieving peace in the region because of the developments and changes in the European arena and the detente between the two superpowers. He also said the EEC will most probably play an effective role in this regard, and this will constitute a pressure factor on the United States that will make it intensify its efforts and role to consolidate peace and resolve the complicated issues in the region.

He said he is optimistic that a just and comprehensive solution will soon be achieved for the Palestinian question which will assert the Palestinian people's right on their homeland in light of the current realities in the world.

Fatah's Khalaf Comments on Syria, Lebanon Ties

JN0101164590 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 31 Dec 89 p 12

[Interview with Salah Khalaf, Fatah Central Committee member, by Najib Khalil in Tunis; date, place not given]

[Excerpt] [Khalil] A Palestinian official recently said that a Palestinian-Syrian meeting will be held in Damascus in mid-January. Are there any preparations for the meeting, and has there been an agreement on the agenda?

[Khalaf] There have been contacts concerning this meeting since September, and in all our contacts we have always stressed the need for this meeting to succeed.

Our relationship with Egypt was one of the main causes of the dispute, and since this knot has been loosened with the improvement of relations between Egypt and Syria through Khaddam's visit to Cairo, the visits by 'Atif Sidqi and Safwat al-Sharif to Damascus, and arrangements for a meeting between Al-Asad and Mubarak, this cause for disagreement is now gone. There might be some differences between us over political moves and the situation in Lebanon, but it is only through meeting that we can overcome these disagreements. We therefore stress the need for this meeting to succeed with a view to promote, not freeze, our relations.

Recently, there has been the problem of al-Rumaylah post in Sidon. The Syrians understand that neither the local Palestinian command in Lebanon nor the command abroad have any link to this incident; those involved are now being punished.

The incident could have obstructed contacts between us, but it was transcended and the Palestinian delegation may arrive in Damascus after the new year holiday. Although I cannot fix a date for its arrival, the next month was initially set as the date of the meeting.

[Khalil] Is there agreement on an agenda?

[Khalaf] The agenda has not been fixed, but it is possible to determine the topics of discussion as follows: the political moves, the intifadah, Lebanon, and changes in the world. All these are important topics that should be discussed.

We in the PLO stress the need for holding of this meeting in order to discuss world changes and how to deal with them, especially as there is an Israeli attempt to benefit from these changes.

Yesterday, for example, there were demonstrators in Romania raising pictures of Ceausescu in an Arab uniform. If we know that Israel stands behind these exposed moves, then we must know how to deal with these moves. This requires that we meet to discuss the issue. There is also the more important question of whether the world is moving toward the state of "one system." What are we going to do in this case?

In the past, if we got angry with the Americans, we would move toward the Soviets, but where would we to if there was only a single system?

In light of this, Arabs must to meet to decide how to deal with the new situation. I say here that some aspect of democracy must be practised in the Arab world so that the winds will not strike us as in Romania.

[Khalil] What is the position of the PLO on the current clashes between Amal and Hizballah?

[Khalaf] We are against all sorts of battles. Amal and Hizballah are two nationalist and Islamist Lebanese forces that are not supposed to have a conflict.

In this context I can say that there is an Arab-Iranian conflict in the region, a conflict embodied by Hizballah and Amal.

Regrettably, Hizballah identifies itself as an extension of the Iranian presence, and this creates a barrier between the party and other forces, especially since people cannot tolerate this fact. In Iran, which still rejects the principle of peace with Iraq more than 1 year after the cease-fire, some people are apparently calling for the resumption of the war. Over the past 8 years, this war greatly harmed the entire region, especially the Palestine question, which bore the brunt of the war. Not to mention the fact that the war depleted Arab money, economy, and material and political power. Hence come fears from Hizballah.

Nevertheless, we say that this is not the way to solve the problems between the two sides.

[Khalil] How do you view the issue of the Palestinian military presence in Lebanon in light of the al-Ta'if resolutions?

[Khalaf] We say that when Lebanese people agree on a solution and when all problems are solved, we will not be an obstacle. The only thing we want from Lebanon is that our camps not become vulnerable to Israeli aggressions. Everyone remembers what happened in 1973 when Israel murdered three Palestinian leaders in Verdun Street in the heart of Beirut. Everyone also knows that our camps are exposed to Israeli warplanes and to Israeli landing attempts. We want someone to protect our presence in Lebanon and provide us with an atmosphere for information and political action only. If this is not provided, we will have to bear arms. However, if the Palestinians were to be given guarantees that we would not be risking the lives of 400,000 Palestinians, then we would not be an obstacle. Therefore, we say to those who ask if the Palestinian armed presence will be an obstacle to the unity of Lebanon that it will not.

We have supported the al-Ta'if agreement. Some of us supported it cautiously, others backed it conditionally. When we said that a military solution would not work with 'Awn, this did not mean we did not want a military solution for 'Awn. But we took this stand in light of our experience. The Lebanese brothers also know from their experience that the problems of Lebanon cannot be solved by force. This has been known to us, and also to the Lebanese brothers, since 1969.

I have heard people like George Sa'adah and others say that there will be no new agreements with the Palestinians. Some people have also said the Palestinians were the reason behind what happened. The question is: Have the events in Lebanon stopped since the Palestinians left in 1982? It is clear that there are still some people who insist on ignoring facts.

The recent statements made by George Sa'adah and Samir Ja'ja' make us feel that some people are disloyal. They were the same people who vouched for us in confirming that since we left in 1982, we have not played any role in any internal event.

So, let the Lebanese begin to implement the al-Ta'if agreement and agree on the need for reconciliation and reforms and on the solution to 'Awn's problem. After that, the Palestinians will not be an obstacle, provided the guarantees we talked about are given.

[Khalil] How does the Palestinian leadership view the horizons of the 1990's regarding the level of international and Arab interest in the Palestine question?

[Khalaf] There is no power in the world that can ignore the Palestine question when discussing any solution on regional and international levels. We are an effective and principal figure in the region's equations. However, from our experience in the previous year after we proposed our peace initiative, which corresponds to international legitimacy, and through a calm and objective assessment, we felt that the main obstacle remains with the United States and Israel. They do not search for a solution to the region's crisis, but for illusory solutions in order to maintain the crisis.

In the face of all this, and despite all the talk about concessions and retreats, we will continue to cling to our political initiative, which we consider a strategic proposal that calls for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state that deals with all states in the region.

Our view toward the horizons of the 1990's must compel us to refrain from placing any burdens on the intifadah, which must be supported by other things. In addition to the need to support and improve the intifadah and collect contributions from the Palestinian people to continue the intifadah, we must develop the armed action to face the enemy.

With the beginning of 1990, we are required to move on all levels—on the level of developing the intifadah and on the level of developing the methods of military action. We must also make a move in the Arab sphere, which does not join us in our military action, nor in effective political action. If Arabs do not stand by our side in an effective way against Israel, they will all be eaten—one state after the other.

[Khalil] Both you and Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] have recently said that the tripartite meeting in Washington does not concern you. In the light of this how do you assess 'Arafat's recent meeting with President Mubarak?

[Khalaf] Our meetings with President Mubarak are continuing and have not ceased. All these meetings fall within the framework of the political activity.

The tripartite Washington meeting does not concern us because we were not invited to it. The United States and Israel should not ever dream of forming a Palestinian delegation away from the PLO because they will not be able to do so. We know that those who are trying to cancel the PLO's role want to cancel the Palestinian representation. Hence came the Israeli attempt to distinguish between Palestinians in the occupied territory and Palestinians outside it in order to solve the problem on the basis of the autonomy plan which seeks to solve the administrative problems of Palestinians in the territories and block the possibility of establishing an independent state.

We received repeated offers from the Americans and Israelis that the Palestinians in the territories form the Palestinian delegation even if it is under the name of the Unified National Leadership although the Unified Leadership is part of the PLO. This is meant to confine matters to the Palestinians in the territories in order to block the establishment of an independent state.

[Khalil] Does the PLO intend to form a provisional government in the light of the demands made by people in the occupied territories?

[Khalaf] The subject of a provisional government is premature and practically unfeasible under the current circumstances. Time is not yet ripe for such a government as a result of the Israeli intransigence and the unintelligible U.S. stand.

When circumstances become propitious and pave the way for holding an international conference, the formation of such a government will be natural. [passage omitted]

Sinyurah Says Hamas Backs PLO Representation

JN3012085489 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
30 Dec 89 pp 1, 24

[By Samir al-Hiyari]

[Excerpt] Hannah Sinyurah, editor in chief of the Jerusalem-based AL-FAJR newspaper, has said the Palestinian people have for 22 years foiled all attempts to find an alternative to the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people inside and outside the occupied territories.

Speaking to AL-RA'Y before leaving Amman yesteray, he said the Hamas movement in the occupied territories holds different political views from those of the PLO, but it does not dispute the issue of representation; it supports the PLO's representation of the Palestinian people. The disagreement between Hamas and the PLO, he added, lies only in political views, and no party other than the PLO claims to be the representative of the Palestinians.

On the formation of the Palestinian delegation to the Arab-Israeli negotiations, Sinyurah said no specific names were given and the names circulated were merely the creation of Israeli journalists; it is these journalists who have proposed the names. Sinyurah said the PLO's position on this issue is clear: All these issues will be determined after preparations for the Palestinian-Israeli meeting have been made. [passage omitted]

Firing Across Jordanian Border Reported

JN0201202690 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 2 Jan 90

[Text] The enemy radio has reported that shots were fired from across the Jordanian border at a military patrol at dawn today. The radio said the patrol returned fire and claimed that there were no casualities among the Israelis. The radio added: Jordanian soldiers were seen combing the area from their side of the border. The radio held Jordan responsible for incidents that took place across the border.

It is worth noting that over the past year, a number of commando operations, firings, katyusha rocket launchings, and attempts to cross Jordan's border by the Zionist entity have taken place. These include four operations carried out last September over a period of only 15 days.

Algeria

Libya's Abu-Bakr Yunis Jabir Arrives 3 Jan

LD0301121790 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1140 GMT 3 Jan 90

[Text] Algiers, 3 Jan (JANA)—Colonel Abu-Bakr Yunis Jabir arrived in sister Algeria this morning. He was greeted at Houari Boumedienne International Airport by Foreign Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali, Defense Ministry Secretary General Mustapha Chelloufi, the secretary and members of the Libyan Arab Brotherhood Bureau, and the Algerian ambassador to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Received by Bendjedid

LD0301142590 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 3 Jan 90

[Excerpt] At noon today President Chadli Bendjedid of fraternal Algeria received Colonel Abu-Bakr Yunis Jabir who handed him a message from his brother the leader of the revolution.

Part of this meeting was attended by Algerian Foreign Minister brother Ahmed Ghozali and the brother secretary of the Libyan Arab fraternity bureau in Algeria. [passage omitted]

Sonatrach, U.S. Companies Settle Dispute

LD0301140390 Algiers APS in Arabic 1045 GMT 3 Jan 90

[Text] Algiers, 3 Jan (APS)—A statement released yesterday by the Ministry of Mines said that Sonatrach [state-owned oil and gas company] and the two U.S. companies Aerojet and General Corp have agreed by mutual consent to end the dispute which has been going on between them since 1975.

The same sources indicated that the origin of this dispute was due to the bankruptcy of the two subsidiaries Chemical Corporation and Cemico America which were commissioned in a contract signed on 16 April 1971 to build a plant for the liquefaction of natural gas in Arzew.

Following the news of this bankruptcy, Sonatrach asked for the arbitration of the Arbitration Tribunal affiliated to the International Chamber of Commerce on 14 November 1975. A ruling in favor of Sonatrach was issued by the Arbitration Tribunal on 21 October 1987.

Sonatrach then made several attempts to settle the dispute in a way which satisfies both parties. It also filed suit for the implementation of the ruling issued against Aerojet and General Corp, the parent companies of Chemico which is insolvent.

Hamrouche Comments on Reforms, Democracy

LD2712232489 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Excerpts] In its current session, the national congress for veterans [of the war for independence] was not a usual one because the veterans looked as if they do not accept the fait accompli. Why was the Ministry of Veterans abolished, and what could its alternative be? The prime minister attended the work of the session in order to explain many of these issues. [passage omitted]

The reforms: How do the veterans look at them, and how does the man in the street look at them? Prime Minister Hamrouche talked at length about this matter and pointed out the connection between the veterans and the youth and how to make democracy succeed in Algeria, because after liberation it is the greatest achievement of the nation.

[Begin Hamrouche recording] The reforms are a change of style, a change of method, but they are not and will never be a change in the essence or aim. [end recording]

[Announcer] A new situation is happening in the country recently. In the press and in the street there is a new word: the civil society. How can we protect this society? It is threatened with violence, chaos, and disregard of the Constitution and state institutions. What is the position of the government?

[Begin Hamrouche recording] The government has firmly made its mind up to strike with an iron fist at anyone who would dare to violate the mottoes of the revolution, the values of the revolution or the national constants. [applause]

Yes to democracy, freedom of discussion, freedom of opinion, and freedom of expression. Yes to all of them. But there are limits, and these limits cannot be violated. They cannot be violated.

Even if there is some exaggeration sometimes in words and speeches, we think that this comes from lack of experience, lack of practice and the search for the best way to recruit the largest number of people. We accept some excesses in words, but we do not accept excesses in violence, because violence leads to violence. Violence threatens the entity of the state and nation, and not only the regime or one or more political parties. It threatens the entity of the nation, and we all should be aware of this danger. Discussion yes, expression of opinion yes, different positions yes, opposite positions yes, but without violence and without threatening the state institutions. [end recording]

AMF Signs Contract for $163 Million Loan

LD2712231389 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Excerpt] A contract according to which Algeria gets a financial loan at the beginning of 1990 was signed today

at El Mithaq Hotel between the Finance Ministry and the Arab Monetary Fund (AMF). The signing ceremony was attended by colleague Hasan Benauda.

[Benauda] In 1990, Algeria will benefit from a loan of approximately $163.8 million. The loan is given by the AMF in support of the economic reform efforts which are currently taking place in Algeria, and to help in overcoming the financial difficulties. This loan contract was signed this afternoon at El Mithaq Hotel by Mr Ghazi Hidouci, minister of finance; and Mr Usamah Ja'far Faqih, AMF director general and chairman of the board of governors. [passage omitted]

Hidouci Holds News Conference on Economic Reform

LD0301131790 Algiers APS in English 1120 GMT 3 Jan 90

[Text] Algiers, 3/1/90 (APS)—Minister of economy, Ghazi Hidouci, gave Tuesday a press conference in which he dealt with the provisions of 1990 finance bill and the principles of economic reforms.

Hidouci also dealt with the program of economic relaunch of the government and the objectives of economic reforms through the struggle against unofficial market and speculative incomes. The minister of economy added that it has been decided "to make the public sector more active and more productive by a policy of price increase."

"We are for a policy of truth concerning prices, so that the profit made by the private sector will partly shift to the public sector," Hidouci said. He added that some taxes that have been proposed by the government on some products are aimed at new recovering a part of profits in order to defend the purchasing power of people with low income.

To a question on the relation between economic reforms in Algeria and the conditions of the IMF and foreign investors, Hidouci said that "reforms were born at the initiative and the children of the public sector in order to save it and replace state capitalism by democratic socialism." "The idea of reforms," he added, "is to suppress the administrative management in companies in order to replace it by the control of producers."

Egypt

Mubarak Returns From 'Successful' Sudan Visit

NC3112171589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1710 GMT 31 Dec 89

[Text] Cairo, 31 Dec (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak and his delegation returned home from Khartoum after a successful visit to Sudan for several hours to attend Sudan's Independence Day celebrations. He was received on arrival by Cairo Governor Dr Mahmud Sharif.

Mubarak on Weizman Dismissal, PLO-Israeli Talks

NC0101120990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1124 GMT 1 Jan 90

[Text] Cairo, 1 Jan (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has affirmed that if the Palestinian issue is to be resolved, a dialogue between the PLO and Israel must take place though Israel has rejected this so far.

Mubarak made statements to journalists after receiving Qatari Amir Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Hamad Al Thani today.

Asked what effect the dismissal of Israeli Minister of Sciences 'Ezer Weizman would have on hampering the proposed Israeli-Palestinian dialogue, Mubarak said: I do not know the reasons for dismissing Weizman. Let Weizman hear me: I support him against his government. [sentence as received] If the Palestinian issue is to be resolved, then a dialogue must take place between the PLO and Israel.

Replying to a remark that this proves that Israel is against the participation of the PLO in any political settlement, Mubarak said: No, but I am afraid that Israel might be against any solution or against peace in the region. This is what I fear and I hope I am wrong.

Asked about the agenda of the forthcoming sessions of the Egyptian-Qatari talks, President Mubarak said: The numerous issues that we always discuss with his highness the amir revolve around bilateral, Arab, and international relations, as well as various matters in our Arab region.

Further on Mubarak's Comments

NC0101130990 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 1 Jan 90

[Excerpt] Following the official ceremony held today for the amir of Qatar, President Husni Mubarak told correspondents that if the Palestinian issue is to be resolved, a dialogue between the PLO and Israel must take place though Israel has rejected this so far.

Asked what effect the dismissal of Israeli Minister of Sciences 'Ezer Weizman would have on hampering the proposed Israeli-Palestinian dialogue, the president said: I do not know the reasons for dismissing Weizman. This does not mean that I support him against his government. But if the Palestinian issue is to be resolved, then a dialogue must take place between the PLO and Israel. [passage omitted]

Commentary Reviews Dismissal

NC0101141490 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1240 GMT 1 Jan 90

[Bahiy al-Din Shu'ayb commentary: "A New Year With Hope for Peace Among All"]

[Text] Today humanity welcomes the start of a new era in its long history. Undoubtedly, the early signs of this era show that a world is on the verge of embracing a new stage, that the political map will change, borders will

disappear, traditional alliances will fall, and ideologies will collapse. The winds of change are going to sweep all over the world in all political, economic, security, and environmental spheres.

While there are still remnants of traditional crises here and there, a large measure of internal changes have affected these crises even though they appear outwardly the same. For example, the Palestinian issue is entering the 1990's with a new reality brought about by the conditions of the 1980's. Israel's internal structure has been affected by some kind of political laxity. Israel's strategy that has always asked: Where is this Palestine today?—is openly calling for a dialogue with the PLO, the Palestinian people's sole, legitimate representative.

We believe that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's decision to dismiss Sciences Minister 'Ezer Weizman because of his direct and indirect contacts with the PLO proves that the split has reached the Israeli Government itself. It also shows that the question is not only the opinion of the ordinary man but that the crisis has reached the extent where all the signs indicate that there is an important change going on at the core of the Israeli concept of the Palestinian issue.

In an interview with NEWSWEEK after spending time in prison because of his meeting with Yasir 'Arafat, Israeli peace activist Ben Nathan expressed this change when he said: The PLO exists and no one can ignore it. If the Israeli Government is proclaiming all the time that it does not trust the organization, then these claims are baseless because not a single official has tried to hold a serious dialogue with the PLO leadership even once in order to judge either against it or for it. The Israeli peace activist added: The prison term will not make me refrain from meeting 'Arafat or any other Palestinian leader whenever I see that this would be useful.

We would like to explain here that when Yitzhaq Shamir announced he is dismissing 'Ezer Weizman because of his direct and indirect contacts with the PLO, then this means only one thing; namely, that the Israeli prime minister wanted to send an urgent message to the United States and Egypt on his stand toward the three countries' foreign ministers conference scheduled to be held in Washington early this month. It is as if the Israeli prime minister wants to say that he will not make any kind of concession to the PLO, that all he is offering is merely the holding of elections in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and that the dialogue between Palestinian and Israeli delegations will not open the way at all for any elements that are very close to the PLO and for any Palestinian from outside the occupied territories.

We believe that such Israeli attempts to resist the effusive tide of events are doomed to failure because they are against the nature of things. If this shows anything, it shows that the Israeli Government is immersed in far-fetched delusions and that it still believes that it can propel events in the direction it wants. While welcoming today the start of a new year, we hope that peace will be the music of the dialogue prevailing in all nations for the sake of more stability, security, and prosperity.

Qatari Amir Arrives in Cairo for Official Visit

NC0101093390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0915 GMT 1 Jan 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 1 Jan (MENA)—Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Hamad Al Thani, amir of Qatar, arrived in Cairo at 1100 today for an official 4-day visit to Egypt. President Husni Mubarak led the party that received Egypt's great guest. [passage omitted]

Praises Bilateral Relations

NC0101113390 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 1 Jan 90

[Text] Qatari Amir Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Hamad Al Thani expressed his pleasure at meeting with the Egyptian people, foremost of whom is President Muhammad Husni Mubarak.

In a statement upon his arrival in Cairo before noon today, he emphasized the deep-rooted intimate ties between the Egyptian and Qatari peoples. He said his visit to Egypt is within the framework of the continuous contacts and consultations to consolidate bilateral cooperation and promote Arab solidarity. He praised Egypt's pioneer role in the service of the Arab nation both in past and modern history.

Iraqi Official on Remittances, Egypt-Syria Ties

NC3112172489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1650 GMT 31 Dec 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, 31 Dec (MENA)—Eng Muhammad Tahir al-Jabali, head of the Iraqi Agricultural Engineers Association and adviser to the Iraqi Presidency, announced that it has been decided to double the amount of Egyptian workers' remittances sent from Iraq which now total $50 million a month. He also said that the overall Egyptian remittances for 1980-88 was $4,885,300,000.

Speaking at a news conference today at the Agronomists Club which was attended by his Egyptian counterpart Eng Sa'd Hajras, Eng al-Jabali welcomed the restoration of Egyptian-Syrian relations, stressing that this is a step on the road to strengthening Arab forces and has gladdened and raised the patriotic feelings of all Arabs. He added that there are some parties who are not happy with continued Egyptian-Iraqi relations. They have exaggerated some individual incidents that could happen anywhere and any time, forgetting the depth of the strong relations between the Egyptian and Iraqi peoples and the close friendship between Presidents Husni Mubarak and Saddam Husayn, he said. [passage omitted]

Deputy Economy Minister Leaves for USSR

NC0101163590 Cairo MENA in English 1625 GMT 1 Jan 90

[Text] Cairo, Jan 1 (MENA)—An Egyptian delegation headed by Muhsin Shihab, deputy minister of economy, left here tonight for Moscow for a 10-day visit during which a protocol will be signed to promote volume of trade exchange between Egypt and the Soviet Union.

In a pre-departure statement, Shihab said that the delegation will discuss aspects of trade exchange in the coming five years. He added that the volume of trade exchange is expected to be increased by ten per cent to reach one billion sterling this year.

The protocol provides for the export of Egyptian strategic commodities to the Soviet Union, namely yarn and cotton and some consumer goods such as leather products, wall paper, and kitchen utensils.

Soviet Union's exports to Egypt will comprise coal, wood, paper, frozen fish, and fertilizers. An exhibition for Egyptian exports will be held in Moscow next March.

Microwave Network With Libya Begins Operations

NC0101114990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1028 GMT 1 Jan 90

[Text] Cairo, 1 Jan (MENA)—A microwave network linking Egypt and Libya through 180 telephone circuits, three radio channels, and a television channel began operating today.

Eng Sulayman Mutawalli, minister of transport, communications, and marine transport, said that with this network Libya will become a center for Egypt's communications with the rest of the Arab Maghreb countries. He added that this network replaces the undersea cable communication system with Libya.

Meanwhile, technical groups of the Egyptian railroad authority are continuing their work in Libya in assisting Libyan technicians to extend a railroad from Banghazi to al-Sallum in preparation for linking this line to the Egyptian railroads.

Mutawalli noted that there is a group of experts from the Egyptian roads and bridges general department currently in Libya to assist in implementing a number of road and bridge projects.

New Suez Canal Passage Fees Effective 1 Jan

NC0101103990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1005 GMT 1 Jan 90

[Text] Ismailia, 1 Jan (MENA)—The new Suez Canal passage fees became effective today. They are higher than the 1989 fees by 2 to 5 percent.

Eng 'Izzat 'Adil, head of the Suez Canal Authority, revealed that the Authority's 1989 revenues totaled $1.375 billion, an increase of $65 million over 1988 revenues.

The Suez Canal Authority levied $1.31 billion in passage fees and services rendered to ships that crossed the canal in 1989.

Crude Oil Prices Increase Effective 1 Jan

NC3112152189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1505 GMT 31 Dec 89

[Excerpts] Cairo, 31 Dec (MENA)—Egypt has decided to raise the price of its crude oil by $1.25 starting tomorrow, 1 January, thus breaking the $18 per barrel barrier. [passage omitted]

Following are the prices of Egyptian crude oil that will become effective tomorrow, 1 January:

Gulf of Suez and Ra's al-Bihar crude: $18.75 per barrel;
Bala'im crude: $16.90 per barrel;
Ra's Badran crude: $16.75 per barrel;
Gharib crude: $16.45 per barrel. [passage omitted]

Libya

Panamanian Envoy Rejects 'Illegal' Government

LD3012152389 Tripoli JANA in English 1439 GMT 30 Dec 89

[Text] Tripoli Al-Kanun [December] 30, THE ARAB MAGHREB UNION/POOL—The ambassador of the Republic of Panama to Great Jamahiriyah announced today that he refused to recognize the illegal government installed by the American invading forces in Panama.

The ambassador told JANA that he could not represent his country under the illegal government installed by the invading forces and that he has already sent a message to the illegal government in Panama in reply to a message he received from it and that he declared in the message that he will not accept to work and execute the orders of fake authorities imposed by blood stained bayonet by the imperialist Yankees against the will and sovereignty of the Panamanian people.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Bulgarian Ambassador

LD0101172190 Tripoli JANA in English 1641 GMT 1 Jan 90

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Annar [January] 1, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution today received the Bulgarian ambassador to Great Jamahiriyah who was recalled by his government to take up new duties in his country.

The leader conveyed a letter to the ambassador for the president of Bulgaria regarding bilateral relations between the two countries.

The ambassador reassured the leader on the situation of Muslims in Bulgaria and informed him that his country took new measures allowing Muslims to use their Islamic

names which they were banned to use in the past as well as allowing them to return to the lands which they left.

Mubarak, Al-Qadhdhafi on 'Communications Network'

LD0301015390 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0015 GMT 3 Jan 90

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution talked on the phone with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak about several issues of common interest. The communications network linking the Great Jamahiriyah and Egypt with 180 telephone channels, 3 radio channels and 1 television channel, began operating 1 January. The Egyptian minister of communications and maritime transport stated at the inauguration of the network that with the commissioning of the network Libya would become a center for communications between Egypt and the other Arab Maghreb countries.

Hungarian Envoy Denies Arabs Fought in Romania

LD0101151390 Tripoli JANA in English 1440 GMT 1 Jan 90

[Text] Tripoli, January 1, THE ARAB MAGHREB UNION/POOL—The ambassador of the Republic of Hungary to Great Jamahiriyah today informed officially the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation that the Foreign Ministry of his country had issued a statement denying the rumours put out by Hungarian news media on participation of Arabs in the fighting alongside the deposed Romanian President Ceausescu.

The ambassador asserted, during his reception by the bureau upon his request, that the Hungarian Government hoped that those rumours would not affect the future Hungarian-Libyan relations.

He said that his country was keen to foster its relations and promote them in all fields with the Arab world for mutual interest.

Sudanese Ministers Sign 'Joint Communique'

LD3012152989 Tripoli JANA in English 1418 GMT 30 Dec 89

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Kanun [December] 30 JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—A joint communique was issued in Tripoli after the visit of the Sudanese ministers of external affairs, commerce, cooperation, supplies, energy, minerals, defence and agriculture to Great Jamahiriyah during the period 25-29th Al-Kanun instant.

The communique asserted that the two sides discussed bilateral relations, means to develop them and promoting them in all spheres in a manner realising the objectives of the Arab nation in accomplishing its total unity. Sudanese brothers expressed their thanks to the Libyan Arab people for its support and assistance to their brotherly Arab people in Sudan in confronting the economic crisis and restoring peace in sisterly Sudan.

In the respect, the communique reaffirmed the support of the Libyan Arab people to its brotherly Sudanese Arab people in confronting all political and economic pressures exerted against its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The communique said that the changes taking place at international level and the challenges faced by the two sisterly countries in political, economic, cultural and social fields require them to intensify efforts and fostering towards joint Arab actions and in this respect the two sides reasserted that there is no choice for the Arabs to confront the radical changes taking place in the world except unity.

The two sides reiterated their support for the massive popular revolution being led by the angry generation in occupied Palestine against the Zionist enemy and their firm belief in the rights of the Palestinian Arab people in setting up its independent state over the whole territory of Palestine.

Also the two sides reviewed the situation in the Mediterranean region and the Horn of Africa. They expressed their belief in the need for the Mediterranean free from foreign fleets and military presence making it a zone of security and peace in favour of the peoples of the region. They reasserted the construction of the Red Sea and the Horn of Africa away from foreign intervention and influence.

The two sides reiterated their support for the struggle of the people of South Africa against the racist Pretoria regime and they strongly condemned the existing cooperation between that regime and the Zionist enemy. They expressed their support for the decisions of the 25th summit conference of the OAU regarding the [word indistinct] set on of the independent [words indistinct] regarding the realisation of the independence of Namibia.

The two sides pointed out that the foreign military presence and Zionist penetration of Africa represent a threat endangering the security of African countries and peoples and stand as an obstacle in their progress and development of their resources. And on the basis of Arab African brotherhood and unity of destiny, the two sides urged African countries not to restore diplomatic relations with the Zionist enemy who is working for tearing up the unity of Africa.

The two sides said that colonial invasion against the developing countries created many problems and sufferings for the peoples of those countries impairing their economic, social and cultural development and making them unable to match the development process and in this respect the two sides urged the international community to look seriously into the issue of providing appropriate compensation for the injured states as a result of colonial invasion.

The two sides reviewed the importance of the role of the United Nations and agreed to exert all efforts so as to help it fulfill its role in consolidating the foundations of

comprehensive and just peace and the realisation of equality amongst all member states by abolishing the veto system.

In consolidation and promotion of existing fraternal relations between the two countries in all fields the following were signed:
1. Minutes of the meeting of the 3rd session of the Arab Libyan Sudanese mixed commission.
2. An accord for setting up a joint bank.
3. Accord of equal commercial transactions.
4. An accord of cooperation between the news agencies of the two countries.

Cuban Ambassador on U.S. Television Station

LD0101211790 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 1 Jan 90

[Text] The Cuban ambassador to the Jamahiriyah has disclosed that the United States is about to finish building an anti-Cuban television station in one of Florida's islands. In a statement to Voice of the Greater Arab Homeland, he said:

[Ambassador in Spanish with superimposed Arabic translation] I take this opportunity given me by Libyan Arab television to condemn the attempts of the U.S. Administration to construct an anti-Cuban television station that will transmit from U.S. soil. This new U.S. imperialist aggression against our country has been rejected by our people and by all world countries.

The Cuban people will reply with the appropriate response against this new aggression. Our people is determined to defend its revolution and defend socialism without taking any notice of all the aggression and hostile measures directed against our people.

Sudan

Egypt's Mubarak Arrives in Khartoum 31 Dec

NC3112091589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0912 GMT 31 Dec 89

[Text] Khartoum, 31 Dec (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak arrived at Khartoum airport this morning on a 1-day visit to Sudan. President Mubarak will participate in Sudan's celebrations to mark the 34th anniversary of its independence.

Comments on Relations

NC3112105989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1015 GMT 31 Dec 89

[Text] Khartoum, 31 Dec (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has affirmed that Egypt is working to achieve concord in Sudan so that the north and the south will remain united in the interest of the Sudanese people.

In a statement upon his arrival at Khartoum airport today, President Mubarak said that the settlement of the problem in south Sudan depends on the Sudanese Government and Garang. He added: We are making efforts in this regard. We have contacts with the Garang movement and our relations with the north are strong. We are doing our utmost to solve this problem. Neither the north nor the south benefits from this problem. Only foreign powers and arms merchants benefit from the dispute. President Mubarak went on to say that the funds spent on the south problem could be used instead to raise the Sudanese people's standard of living.

Touching on the joint defense pact between Egypt and Sudan, President Mubarak said that Egypt and Sudan have joint defense without a joint defense pact. He stressed that Egypt and Sudan are one country.

Asked about his expectations for 1990, his excellency said that he expects major changes, pointing to the developments which took place in the countries of the North in 1989. President Mubarak added: We are not far from the changes that occurred in the North. The countries of the South and the Third World must reconsider their calculations on the basis of these changes. We must at least begin a South-South dialogue and then prepare ourselves for a dialogue with the North. We must make our calculations and full assessments of the changes in the North because we will be affected by them.

Asked about the Egyptian and OAU stand on the Palestinian problem, President Husni Mubarak said that Egypt is constantly exerting efforts for the sake of the Palestinian problem. In his capacity as the OAU chairman, President Mubarak emphasized the OAU's support for the Palestinians' legitimate rights.

Regarding Israeli moves in Africa, President Mubarak said: The Israeli presence in Africa should not scare us. We must assess the circumstances and we must not stand idly by vis-a-vis this presence.

Speaks at Anniversary Celebration

NC3112125989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1240 GMT 31 Dec 89

[Text] Khartoum, 31 Dec (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak today urged the Sudanese people to devote their energy and efforts to serving stability, which would benefit all members of Sudanese society.

In a speech he delivered at the celebration held at the people's hall in Khartoum today to mark the anniversary of Sudan's independence, President Mubarak emphasized the depth of the goodwill which all Egyptians harbor toward the Sudanese people.

In his speech, President Mubarak spoke of his eagerness to come to Sudan to participate in this historic occasion, emphasizing that this independence is dear to every Egyptian as it is dear to every Sudanese.

Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council for National Salvation, introduced President Mubarak before he addressed the Sudanese nation.

Holds News Conference

NC3112151789 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 GMT 31 Dec 89

[Excerpts] Khartoum, 31 Dec (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak and Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese Revolution Command Council for National Salvation, held a news conference at the friendship hall in Khartoum at noon today for the chief editors of Egyptian papers and magazines as well as the MENA chief editor.

Speaking at the conference, President Mubarak said he hoped 1990 will see unity in Sudan and the end of differences through the cooperation between Sudan's north and south for the welfare of the Sudanese people. In the new year, President Mubarak hopes Sudan will continue the development process to serve the interests of the Sudanese people. He also wished for progress for the Egyptian people and that ongoing efforts would be redoubled in order to increase productivity and fill the gaps in the economy.

Lt Gen al-Bashir said during the conference that what pleases him on Independence Day pleases both the Egyptian and Sudanese people as well. He hoped the leaders of the two countries would achieve progress for both peoples.

President Mubarak was then asked about what would govern Egyptian-Sudanese relations in the future. He said: As our Sudanese brothers say here, Egyptian-Sudanese relations are eternal, and the two peoples are linked by strong and historic ties.

Lt Gen al-Bashir was then asked about the celebrations marking Sudan's independence. He said with these celebrations we intended to honor the leaders who achieved independence, foremost being Isma'il al-Azhari, and we have raised the slogan, "Let us complete independence." He said the leading pioneers achieved the first phase of independence, but it has not yet been achieved in full. It will be fully achieved only when we are the masters of our own decicions.

Al-Bashir stressed that all Sudanese are aware of the role played by fraternal Egypt in Sudan's independence as well as the ties that linked the leaders of the nationalist movement in both countries. He noted in this respect that it was the July revolution in Egypt that raised the slogan "Sudan comes before Egypt."

Asked by MENA Chief Editor Mustafa Najib about the Sudanese Government's efforts to achieve peace in Sudan, Lt Gen al-Bashir said that what the Sudanese Government has proposed could serve as a basis for achieving peace. He added that Sudan needs all the money spent on wars for reconstruction and development purposes. He said his country is determined to achieve peace through negotiations, which constitute the basis for attaining peace.

Asked about the current military situation in southern Sudan, Lt Gen al-Bashir emphasized that the Armed Forces are in full control of the situation and that the initiative is in their hands.

In response to another question on the campaign launched by the foreign media to distort Sudan's image abroad, Al-Bashir said the campaign is led by some ill-wishers who want Sudan to remain divided so that they could easily strike at it. He noted that as a united country, Sudan, along with the other countries, could play a role in providing food for the entire world. He added that the fact that Sudan is an Arab country with food resources gives the Arab world strength, but it is in the interest of the hostile forces to keep the Arab world weak. Lt Gen al-Bashir affirmed that if the Arab states manage to produce their own food, they cannot be subject to any pressure and their decisions cannot be influenced. Therefore, the hostility comes through the lies and untrue reports carried by the foreign media, he added. Al-Bashir added that among the reports that aim to distort our reputation are those on a bomb detonating at Khartoum airport, the sweeping demonstrations in Khartoum, and differences within the Revolution Command Council [RCC].

In response to a question about Sudan's Islamic orientation, Lt Gen al-Bashir said he who is against you will accuse you of anything. The RCC members' commitment to virtue, ethics, and religion makes what their opponents say seem believable; because the opponents could not find anything to use against the RCC, they accused it of loyalty to the Islamic Front. He added that this campaign will continue as long as there is a hostile trend against the revolution.

Asked what the Sudanese revolution has achieved in the past 6 months, Lt Gen al-Bashir said: We have achieved a great deal in the fields of security and development of relations with the Arab, neighboring, and friendly states. He affirmed that Sudan currently maintains friendly and brotherly relations with all Arab states without exception. The barrier between Sudan and Africa has been broken, and the borders with Zaire have been opened. Sudan has also joined the preferential trade zone, which includes 18 countries. Al-Bashir said that these confirm that Sudan's relations with Africa have become strong. [passage omitted]

Asked about Sudan's position regarding the changes in the world, particularly in Eastern Europe, he said that the Sudanese people love freedom and democracy. There is no doubt about that. We support freedom and democracy and giving the people the chance to freely express themselves and choose their representatives and participate in decisionmaking. We will continue on this course. He said: The freedom which we allowed during

the past 6 months was not allowed by any other revolution before. We will proceed with the necessary speed the Sudanese people demand. He explained that no one is in prison today for criticizing the RCC chairman. Criticism of the RCC chairman is not regarded as a crime, because this is the nature of the Sudanese people, he said.

Regarding the press, Lt Gen al-Bashir said: We are currently in the process of preparing a new law for the press. The press will be under the RCC in order to gain its freedom in criticizing the executive authority. If the press were under the authority of the information minister, it would not be able to criticize the minister or any other minister.

Regarding unions in Sudan, al-Bashir said that unions exist there. We are in the process of preparing a new union law which will regulate labor relations, he said. Elections for new labor unions will take place on the basis of this law. [passage omitted]

President Mubarak was then asked whether a specific working paper or plan on the Arab position regarding the international changes will be drafted and submitted to all the Arab countries. He said: We have asked experts to study this matter; the results will be referred to our brother Arab kings and presidents when they are ready.

President Mubarak was then asked about what Lt Gen al-Bashir said regarding his mediation for holding a dialogue in Cairo between the Sudanese Government and the rebel movement and whether there is now a chance to bring about national unity in Sudan in light of what the brother Sudanese have contributed. President Mubarak said: What the Sudanese brothers in northern Sudan have done is very encouraging. There are rumors that we are biased towards the North more than the South, but this is not true. We want accord to prevail between them because it is in our interest. I believe there are suitable grounds for reconciliation between the North and the South. It is possible.

He said it is not that difficult to achieve this reconciliation, but some foreign parties who have no interest in such an accord are intervening in the matter. Therefore, he added, I advise our brothers in the North and South to be alert to such intereference, because it is dangerous to both areas.

Asked if Colonel Garang is more enthusiastic about this round of talks and whether there are contacts between the movement and the Egyptian Government, President Mubarak said there are contacts, but I cannot talk about them. [passage omitted]

Comments on Arab Issues

NC3112154389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1511 GMT 31 Dec 89

[Text] Khartoum, 31 Dec (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak left here this evening for Cairo after a short visit during which he attended the Sudanese people's independence day celebrations. He was seen off at the airport by Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC]; RCC members; ambassadors of the Arab and foreign states accredited here, and members of the Egyptian community in Sudan. At his official farewell ceremony, President Mubarak reviewed the honor guard, and the Sudanese and Egyptian national anthems were played.

Speaking to reporters before his depature, President Mubarak said cooperation between Egypt and Sudan is continuing in various fields without the need for any formula or agreements.

Regarding Egypt's endeavors to reconcile Syria and Iraq, President Mubarak said: I welcome any endeavors by any state to reconcile Arab countries.

Asked about the resumption of relations between Ethiopia and Israel, President Mubarak said: "Ethiopia is free to resume its relations, and we do not interefere in Ethiopia's affairs. Each country is sovereign, and we cannot interfere with Ethiopia's sovereignty."

Defense Pact With Egypt Still in Force

EA3012163389 Khartoum SUNA in English 0908 GMT 30 Dec 89

[Text] Khartoum, 30 Dec (SUNA)—The chairman of the RCC [Revolution Command Council], Gen 'Umar, has reaffirmed that the joint defence pact between Sudan and Egypt is still existing and valid. Gen al-Bashir said that the two countries would activate the military agreement, adding that consultations between Sudan and Egypt, towards activating the agreement have already taken place. "Sudan is tightly linked to Egypt, Libya, and other Arab countries," Al-Bashir said, adding that co-ordination is needed in a world approaching unity and integration.

Gen al-Bashir hailed the Arab countries [words indistinct] outcome of his visits to some Arab countries which, he said, had normalized relations with Sudan after the tension in the past. "We discussed with Arab leaders ways of co-ordination in the questions of Palestinian, Lebanon, Gulf war, Arab unity, and investment in Sudan," Al-Bashir concluded.

Al-Bashir Comments on Relations With U.S.

EA3012165989 Khartoum SUNA in English 0920 GMT 30 Dec 89

[Text] Khartoum, 30 Dec (SUNA)—Chairman of the RCC [Revolution Command Council] Gen 'Umar al-Bashir, Saturday said there are new prospectives for developing Sudan-U.S. relations. Gen al-Bashir said this was due to conviction that the situation in Sudan is currently far more better [as received] than it had been during the rule of the dissolved political parties. Gen al-Bashir said another reason for a possible betterment of Sudan-U.S. relations is the recommendations of the national dialogue conference on peace

with regard to the adoption of a federal system of government whose various apparatuses will be chosen through direct elections.

With regard to U.S. Article 513, which calls for stopping assistance to any government that topples a genuinly-elected government, Gen al-Bashir said: We know the USA has co-operated with regimes that come to power through military coups. [Words indistinct] between Sudan and the USA to (?the development) of the democratic process in the country, Gen al-Bashir said.

Al-Bashir Says Relief Workers Feeding Rebels

EA3012165689 Khartoum SUNA in English 0914 GMT 30 Dec 89

[Text] Khartoum, 30 Dec (SUNA)—Sudan is not accusing the UN or any other relief organisation of ferrying arms to the rebels within UN-sponsored Lifeline Sudan, but some individuals are certainly implicated, Gen 'Umar al-Bashir told SUNA Saturday. The Command Council chairman, General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, said some individuals in the relief organizations "who have certain goals and interests are implied by the accusation."

He, however, added that neither the UN nor the relief organizations (?could have) added some areas to the relief operation without a previous consultation with the government. He said such areas were not included in the initial programme agreed upon by the concerned sides. Gen al-Bashir has cited Torit and Waat in southern Sudan as cases in this regard. He said when these areas were under government control no relief was taken, but food and relief were rushed in as soon as rebels occupied them, he argued in his statement to SUNA. Gen al-Bashir complained that relief would not reach the government-controlled areas without rebel acceptance, but relief goes to rebel-held areas without consultation of the government, Gen al-Bashir said. He said the government will not give an inch (?with) [word indistinct] sovereignty matters, stressing the importance of government supervision for relief materials and stuff airlifted within Lifeline Sudan operations.

Al-Bashir Blames Rebels for Khartoum Strikes

EA3012170289 Khartoum SUNA in English 0922 GMT 30 Dec 89

[Text] Khartoum, 30 Dec (SUNA)—The convocation of peace talks with the rebel SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] and the success achieved by the Sudanese Government are the main cause for the move of strikes in Khartoum, chairman of the RCC [Revolution Command Council] Gen 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir said. Al-Bashir outlined that the Sudanese medical doctors' strike is a part of a move instigated by the leftist wing in the rebel SPLA. "The leftist wing of the SPLA is working to weaken other wings demanding peace in Sudan," al-Bashir said, adding that the leftist SPLA co-operated with the strikers in Khartoum to end the negotiations in failure.

The leadership of the SPLA, Al-Bashir said, had liquidated some elements in the movement and arrested other founders with the exception of Matthew Obur Ayang. The liquidation comprises the national wing, which believes that the southern question can only be solved through dialogue and negotiations, he concluded.

Kuwait

Middle East Urged To Learn Romanian 'Lesson'

JN2712173589 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 26 Dec 89 p 8

[Editorial by Ahmad al-Jarallah entitled: "The Lesson of Romania"]

[Text] The proverb says "When your neighbour shaves his beard you should prepare your beard also for shaving." Similarly many leaders should prepare themselves to face the same fate as the deposed Romanian leader. People of many countries will certainly learn from the Romanian lesson and will severely punish their leaders.

In the Middle East, there are many such regimes who have oppressed their people, destroyed their economic resources, suppressed their personal freedom and turned their countries into beggars seeking gifts and aid from others.

Leaders of these countries behave in the same manner as the deposed Romanian leader. They have amassed huge accounts abroad, mostly in the names of brothers, relatives, supporters, security personnel and a bunch of submissive merchants who facilitate the smuggling of funds.

Traditional slogans of honesty, dignity, progressive ideas, liberation, national independence, fighting the enemy, and others, are simply intended to mislead the people.

All who differ with these regimes are tortured with fire, electric shocks and other innovations at the hands of the secret police. Thus, electricity flew in their bodies, perhaps before it reached their villages.

People have woken up and punishment will follow at a time when escape for these rulers will be difficult. Present international law does not permit such leaders to flee after destroying their countries. Even funds have now been frozen in what was once called secret Swiss accounts.

These leaders should always remember that honesty and dignity in ruling, providing the people with their personal and public freedom and spending the peoples' funds for the people, are the only right attitude. There are countries in the Middle East that would have become the richest countries in the region and would by now be exporting to other countries instead of waiting for charity from others, had they had a clean honest regime running their affairs.

But it seems that the current developments in East Europe and Romania are intended to be the great example and lesson for other peoples. Allah's ability can do more than that. The oppressive regimes will certainly receive what they deserve of punishment. Souls of thousands of persons who died in jails are now certainly crying and searching for their revenge. It looks that the time of punishment is fast approaching. Though the events in Romania are so painful, but it is the lesson. [sentence as published]

Council of Ministers Welcomes Egypt, Syria Talks

LD3112175189 Kuwait KUNA in English 1447 GMT 31 Dec 89

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 31 (KUNA)—Kuwait Sunday welcomed resumption of diplomatic relations between Egypt and Syria and stressed significance of the step in realizing Arab aspirations for unity and solidarity in facing immediate challenges.

It also expressed satisfaction at the decisions taken by the Bulgarian Government offering more freedom to Moslems in practising religious rites and the positive Turkish response to the decisions.

The stance was made during a weekly cabinet session today, chaired by H.H. [his highness] the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh al-Sa'ud 'Abdallah.

Briefing newsmen, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Rashid al-Rashid said the Council of Ministers started its session by expressing best felicitations to H.H. the amir and the people of Kuwait on occasion of the new year, hoping that the new decade would be one of prosperity for the Arab and Moslem nation and of continuing peace, welfare and stability for Kuwait.

The cabinet, Al-Rashid added, was also apprised of the visit to be paid to Egypt by H.H. the crown prince and [words indistinct] January 8 at the head of a government delegation.

The delegation will include the ministers of state for foreign affairs, ministers of commerce and industry and justice and legal affairs, senior official from H.H. [word indistinct] and the ministries of foreign affairs and finance, Army chief of staff, undersecretary of interior, director of the military staff of the national guards, chairman and the director-general of KUWAIT NEWS AGENCY, president of the Kuwaiti Journalists Society and a military and information delegation.

Reviewing the state visit made to Kuwait last week by Chinese President Yang Shangkun, at invitation of H.H. the amir, the Council of Ministers was informed on context of talks between the Kuwaiti and Chinese sides which dealt with all facets of existing cooperation between the two friendly countries and means to strengthen it in line with the close ties binding them, the official said.

The talks, Al-Rashid elaborated, also tackled ways to implement Security Council Resolution 598 on ending the Iraq-Iran conflict and reinstatement of comprehensive peace in the Arab Gulf region as well as Mideast developments, the Palestinian people's just rights and overall world conditions of mutual interest.

The government spokesman indicated that Finance Minister Jasim al-Kharafi has reported to the session outcome of the joint Kuwaiti-Chinese commission on economic, technical cooperation and trade exchange, which resulted in conclusion of an agreement ending double taxation and an economic, technical cooperation accord between the two governments.

Al-Rashid said the cabinet has expressed satisfaction at the gratifying results of the Chinese president's visit and underlined its role in cementing relations between the two friendly states.

The minister of commerce and industry also reported to the cabinet on his visit last week to Muscat where he took part in the 14th session of the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] Trade Cooperation Committee, board meetings of the specifications and standardisation authority and the third gulf industrialists' conference.

The Council of Ministers welcomed resumption of diplomatic ties between Cairo and Damascus as well as recent decisions taken by Bulgaria's Government giving more freedom to Moslems to practice their rites and the positive Turkish response to these decisions, Al-Rashid indicated.

He pointed out that the cabinet praised the constructive step as reflecting both countries' keenness on resolving this dispute and welcomed the meeting of next January 9 in Kuwait between the Bulgarian and Turkish foreign ministers, under auspices of Kuwait's Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, to tackle vestiges of the problem of the Moslem minority in Bulgaria in a manner serving interests of the two friendly peoples.

Out of interest to make maximum use of available national resources and experiences and to ensure optimum use of human resources, Al-Rashid said the cabinet session has discussed possible employment of capable pensioners and requested the civil service commission to recommend on the best means to this effect such that pensioners can continue offering their services to the country.

He added that the cabinet also considered means to strengthen the role of governorates' councils in improving the standard of services offered by the SPE [expansion unknown] and to ensure harmony between state institutions and those councils in the manner better serving the public.

The Council of Ministers also discussed and approved [words indistinct] Kuwait's contribution to world, regional and Islamic specialized agencies and took appropriate action in a number of other agenda topics, Al-Rashid concluded.

PDRY

YAR Labor Leader Departs After Meetings

EA2912144489 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 28 Dec 89

[Text] Brother Yahya al-Nu'ami, secretary general of the General Confederation of Trade Unions in the northern part of the homeland, left Aden at noon today after participating in the meetings of the committee drafting the document to govern the unification of the trade union movement.

Brother Yahya al-Nu'ami told ANA that a number of detailed steps will be taken and a number of subcommittees formed to draft the rules and regulations and conferences held before the convening of the general unification conference. He stressed that the meetings of the committee had been successful and fruitful.

He was seen off at the airport by brother 'Abd-al-Karim Nasir, member of the Central Committee and secretary of the council for the affairs of the confederation of trade unions of Democratic Yemen, and a number of the members of the secretariat.

Yemen Arab Republic

President Chairs Armed Forces Command Meeting

JN0101142990 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 1 Jan 90

[Excerpts] Brother Colonel President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, commander in chief of the Armed Forces and secretary general of the General People's Congress, this morning chaired the annual expanded meeting of the Armed Forces' general command. In remarks he made during the meeting, the president reviewed unionist moves aimed at reunifying the Yemeni homeland and the expected role of the Armed and Security Forces to safeguard the achievements of the unionist march. [passage omitted]

He said the 30 November Aden agreement has moved Yemeni unity to new, advanced horizons and introduced the proper climate for reuniting the country divided by the imamate and colonialism. The president noted the road to unity never has been smooth sailing or strewn with roses. The enemies of Yemen and unity hardly will be happy to see a united, strong Yemen capable of fulfilling its civilized, pan-Arab, and human role. [passage omitted]

Being far from an expression of a political decision or whims of the leaderships of the two halves of the homeland, unity is an expression of the Yemeni masses's will and a fulfillment of their yearnings and ambitions, as well as an embodiment of their struggle toward freedom from the rule of imams in the north and colonialism in the south. [passage omitted]

The brother president urged all sectors of the Yemeni people, especially the Armed and Security Forces across the one Yemeni homeland, to exercise increased vigilance and awareness and to stand up to enemies of unity and skeptics who impugn its truthful, nationalist line. These skeptics, added the president, are serving the enemies of the revolution and receive their instructions from international intelligence services. [passage omitted]

Yemeni Ministers Brief President Salih on Tour

JN3012124689 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 Dec 89

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces and secretary general of the General People's Congress, received in his office this morning brothers Ahmad Muhammad Luqman, minister of social affairs and labor and member of the Standing Committee, and 'Abd-al-Qawi Muthanna Hadi, minister of installations and housing in the southern part of the homeland.

They briefed the brother president on results of their Arab Maghreb Union [UMA] tour to explain developments in the Yemeni arena concerning achieving unity in light of the historic Aden agreement. The two ministers stated the leaders of the UMA countries expressed their support and blessing to all steps taken to reunite the two Yemens. They affirmed this demonstrates the Arab desire to retrieve unity and strengthen capacities to confront the challenges [words indistinct] since this is an important step toward realizing the desired Arab unity.

Joint Yemeni Military Committee Meets 27 Dec

EA2812193089 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Excerpt] The military and security committee continued its meetings this morning at the meeting hall at the Armed Forces Officers' Club in Sanaa under the chairmanship of brothers Colonel Muhammad Haytham Qasim, member of the Central Committee and deputy chief of staff, and Staff Colonel 'Ali Muhammad Saluh, deputy chief of staff and member of the permanent committee in the northern part of the homeland.

At this session the committee evaluated what had been achieved by the subcommittees and ratified what had been arrived at after making amendments. The committee embarked on laying down ideas as regards the Defense Ministry in the unified state. The committee charged the two countries' respective security organizations and Defense Ministries with carrying out the project to enable the use of military identity cards to cover the movements of officers between the two parts, as agreed by the two chiefs of staff during the first meeting of the joint military committee. [passage omitted]

Further on Meeting

EA2812193089 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 27 Dec 89

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'Fruitful' Session Ends

JN2812212389 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Dec 89

[Text] The Joint Military and Security Committee this morning concluded its 1989 session in Sanaa, the capital of the state of unity. It was cochaired by brothers Staff Colonel 'Ali Muhammad Saluh, deputy chief of staff and Standing Committee member, and Colonel Muhammad Haytham Qasim, Central Committee member and deputy chief of staff in the southern part of the homeland. In this session, the minutes of the topics that were agreed upon were signed. A number of draft military and security laws were also signed. The two brother deputy chiefs of staff expressed their satisfaction with the fruitful results the joint military and security committee has reached.

Iraqi Envoy Hands Ramadan Note to Prime Minister

JN3012130289 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 Dec 89

[Text] 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, prime minister and Standing Committee member, this morning received brother 'Ala' al-Samarra'i, head of the office of Iraqi First Deputy Prime Minister and Revolution Command Council member brother Taha Yasin Ramadan. During the meeting he handed the prime minister and Standing Committee member a message from brother Taha Yasin Ramadan dealing with the timetable of the coming Arab Cooperation Council's Ministerial Council meeting in the Iraqi capital.

Brother Muhammad Sa'id Zafir, head of the prime minister's office, and the Iraqi ambassador in Sanaa attended the meeting.

French Defense Minister Leaves After 9-Day Visit

JN2912184589 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 29 Dec

[Text] French Defense Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement left Sanaa today after a 9-day visit to our country during which he met with a number of officials. He was seen off by Staff Colonel Sa'id Muhammad Ghanim, deputy chief of staff for training affairs, and officials in the Armed Forces General Command.

Justice Minister al-'Ulufi Returns From Aden

JN2812211989 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Dec 89

[Text] Justice Minister brother Muhsin Muhammad al-'Ulufi returned to Sanaa from Aden this afternoon after leading the North Yemeni side to the meetings of the Joint Legislative and Judicial Committee of the two parts of the homeland, which met in Aden during the period 23-27 December.

In a statement to SABA', the brother justice minister said the committee held several meetings to complete the tasks it was assigned. It also discussed a host of legislative and judiciary topics and laid down the bases and general principles of legislation for the forthcoming stage according to the provisions and articles cited in the draft constitution of the state of unity and according to the common denominators in the two parts' laws that match the draft constitution. He said the committee was also guided by the legislation issued by the Arab justice ministers council and the Sanaa plan to unify Arab legislation. He indicated that the committee discussed the basic laws required by the judiciary and both the courts and prosecution of the state of unity, including the judiciary law and penal code. He said technical work teams have been formed to review the above mentioned draft laws as a prelude to presenting them to the committee's next session in Sanaa shortly. He added that the practical steps to unify the judiciary bodies have been discussed and it was decided to intensify the exchange of visits between judiciary officials in the two parts, as well as visits by judges and members of prosecuting bodies with the aim of becoming acquainted with the successful experiences in the judiciary and adopting judiciary legislation in the two parts' judiciary organs.

Concluding, the brother justice minister said he held an expanded meeting with officials at the Ministry of Justice and at the public prosecutor's office, in addition to talks with judges at the Supreme Court and some special and criminal courts. Talks dealt with certain judiciary and legislative issues.

Nusayyif Jasim Confers With 'Arafat Adviser

JN0201155190 Baghdad INA in English 1510 GMT 2 Jan 90

[Text] Baghdad, Jan 1, INA—Mr Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information, met here today with Mr Bassam Abu-Sharif, political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat.

Mr Jasim stressed, during the meeting, Iraq's continuing support to the Palestinian uprising to restore their legitimate rights in establishing an independent Palestinian state.

They also discussed means of promoting cultural and information cooperation between Iraq and the Palestinian Liberation Organization in support of the Palestinian struggle.

Palestinian Army Chief Arrives for Celebrations

JN0301194390 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 3 Jan 90

[Text] Fraternal and friendly delegations began arriving in Baghdad to participate in celebrations Saturday [6 January] marking the 69th anniversary of the founding of the valiant Iraqi Army.

A Palestinian delegation led by Major General Ahmad 'Afanah, chief of staff of the Palestinian Armed Forces, arrived in Baghdad this evening for the celebrations.

UN's General Slavko Jovic Leaves for Tehran

JN0301115890 Baghdad INA in English 1120 GMT 3 Jan 90

[Text] Baghdad, Jan. 3, INA—Yugoslav General Slavko Jovic, commander of the United Nations Iraq-Iran Military Observer Group, headed this morning for Tehran It is worth mentioning that General Slavko shuttles between Baghdad and Tehran to police the ceasefire.

Trade Ministry Statement on Prices, Subsidies

JN0301205690 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 3 Jan 90

[Statement issued by the Ministry of Trade; date not given]

[Excerpts] In implementation of directives issued by his excellency the president leader, may God protect and preserve him, calling for reconsidering prices for commodities produced by the socialist commercial sector and those falling outside the realm of state-subsidized commodities, aiming to reduce them; after the Economic Commitee reviewed the controls and bases spelled out in the pricing policy guidelines; after the pertinent approval of the esteemed Presidential Office was obtained per letter No 27,056 dated 27 July 1989 to implement the new pricing guidelines in the beginning of 1990—guidelines that provide for reduction in profits of trade corporations affiliated with the Ministry of Trade without affecting the commissions given to the private sector's retail salesmen in order to secure the commodities needed by citizens at the lowest possible price; not to mention the fact that the amounts earmarked for subsidizing the basic foodstuffs have been increased in the state general budget for the year 1990—and considering that these amounts totaled 500 million dinars, 270 million dinars more than the amounts earmarked for subsidies in the year 1989, which did not exceed 230 million dinars, it pleases the Ministry of Trade to announce to the esteemed citizenry that it has begun to implement the directives issued in this regard by the president leader, may God protect and preserve him, which called for reducing the prices of the commodities produced by the socialist commercial sector as of today. [passage omitted]

The price reduction ranges between 4 and 25.7 percent. [passage omitted]

Planning Minister Cited on 1990 Investment Plan

JN0201181590 Baghdad INA in English 1630 GMT 2 Jan 90

[Text] Baghdad, Jan 2, INA—Allocations of the 1990 investment plan are 5.6 billion Iraqi dinars (approx. 17 billion dollars), Iraqi Planning Minister Samal Majid Faraj stated today.

The allotments have been distributed in a way that would help to set projects that could contribute to boosting commodity production in industry and agriculture besides developing and increasing productive capacities in other sectors, he said.

The planning minister told INA that industry and agriculture had been assigned 69 percent of the total investments allocations at 2.965 billion dinars for industry and 909 millions for agriculture. He clarified that the allotments, designated for the state-financed investments, totalled 5.093 billion dinars while those of the projects, financed by economic organizations, totalled 508 million dinars to the aim of implementing the investment plan projects.

He went on saying that the current investment plan consisted of development projects distributed as 187 projects in agriculture, 247 in industry, 200 in transport and communications, 286 in construction and services and 103 in education and scientific research.

Statement Ends Islamic News Agency Conference

JN2912154089 Baghdad INA in English 1510 GMT 29 Dec 89

[Text] Baghdad, Dec 29, INA—The Executive Bureau of International Islamic News Agency [IINA] expressed its joy and appreciation of Iraq's great achievements in the technological field, especially the latest launch of space rocket system al-'Abid and long-range surface-to-surface missile Tammuz-1, considering this to be an Arab and Islamic accomplishment.

In a press statement issued here at the conclusion of its meetings today, the Executive Bureau necessitated [as received] that Iraq-Iran direct negotiations should lead to a new peace agreement that would guarantee permanent stability in the region in a way that should endorse Iraq's historical rights in its land and waters including its complete right to Shatt al-'Arab, being a purely Iraqi and Arab waterway.

Pressure has to be made towards a comprehensive exchange of the prisoners of Iraqi-Iranian war (POW's) in accordance with divine laws, in the forefront of which is the Islamic shari'a and the 3rd Geneva Convention of 1949 calling for a POW's swap, automatically after military operations were ceased. The bureau called upon Iran to abide by this agreement and respond to Iraq's relevant initiatives and the endeavours of the International Committee of the Red Cross to put an end to this painful human tragedy.

The conference called for urging Iran to implement U.N. Security Council Resolution No. 598.

As regards Lebanon and the grave developments in this Arab country, the IINA Executive Bureau underlined shedding further light on the plight of the Lebanese people and enabling this brotherly people to reach a formula of national reconciliation.

The committee hailed the efforts exerted by His Majesty Custodian of Holy Shrines King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz to bring to success the al-Ta'if conference agreements and the efforts of the tripartite committee towards realizing these results.

The bureau also underlines the decisive necessity to promote Islamic solidarity at the political, information, social and economic levels to face up propaganda hostile to Islamic countries and their interests and rights.

The bureau calls for activating means that reflect the economic and social development and new renaissance in the Islamic countries and boosting scopes of coordination and integration among the council's states.

The bureau hailed the Palestinian uprising as it represents the historical reply to the Zionist occupation and necessitates intensifying coverage with news and photo and giving it priority in a way that would contribute to the Islamic mobilization for the intifadah and embody the Palestinian Arab people's rights of self-determination and establishing its independent state on its soil under its sole and legal representative, the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The IINA Executive Bureau called for concentrating the Islamic agencies' effort to resist the news blockade the Zionist circles are trying to impose on the intifadah inside the occupied land, and the oppressive measures of the occupation authorities against the Palestinian people. The bureau, moreover, expressed its support to all other information efforts of the institutions that resist the blockade.

The Executive Bureau strongly denounced all attempts aimed at harming Saudi Arabia's sovereignty on its land, or interfering in its internal affairs and stresses its right to take all measures to preserve the sanctuaries of Moslems from the wrong doing of the frivolous and its right to lay controls during the hajj season to maintain security and safety of the pilgrims.

Shamir on Mideast, East Europe Changes, Peace

TA2912182989 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 29 Dec 89

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by political correspondent Shlomo Ganor in the Prime Minister's Office; date not given—recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] [Ganor] Mr Prime Minister, how does Israel view Syria's and Egypt's decision to renew their relations?

[Shamir] I do not think it is so surprising. It was expected to happen one day, as all the countries of the Arab world—actually, with the exception of one—have resumed diplomatic ties with Egypt. Consequently, there was room to believe that Syria would do the same as well and would not opt for isolation, particularly in view of its weakened ties with the East European countries. I do not see this as a great revolution or a major change as far as Israel is concerned, because Syria has not evinced any signs that it is approaching something resembling the Camp David accords. What we see and hear from Syria are the same tunes about fanatical hatred toward Israel and the need to engage one day in a serious, bitter confrontation with Israel.

[Ganor] Mr Shamir, do you expect Jordan to join the peace process now, in light of this Syrian-Egyptian rapprochement?

[Shamir] I think Jordan should participate in a peace process because of the border we share and because of the fact that we will have to reach some peace treaty with Jordan. I also think Jordan should take part because of its special affinity with the population, which is the same, whether it resides in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, or in Jordan.

[Ganor] It now seems, in light of the drastic changes that have occurred in the world, that the peace process has stagnated.

[Shamir] This would be a legitimate remark about anything that is not racing forward. We have witnessed immense changes in East Europe recently, and they took place within a matter of days or a few weeks. One could have argued that for many years there was a freeze. One could say that about anything. Sometimes there are undercurrents which explode and burst out in days.

[Ganor] What about the peace process in our region?

[Shamir] At this point we cannot see the same degree of progress we would like to see, but it is not dead; it exists. First of all, we adhere to this initiative; second, there are deliberations with international elements. At any rate, our initiative is the only one that exists as a peace plan.

[Ganor] What steps are to be expected now, Mr Shamir?

[Shamir] I presume that talks with the United States will continue because the United States is, after all, the country that pledged to help us implement the peace initiative. Furthermore, it is interested in doing so. So, deliberations with the United States will continue, as will efforts to bridge the existing gaps and difficulties whose existence is natural in such circumstances. We will then see what comes in the wake of these attempts.

[Ganor] Can you envision the three foreign ministers meeting soon?

[Shamir] The meeting of the three foreign ministers is part of this process. Things could happen even without such a meeting, but I presume that such a meeting will become necessary after we overcome difficulties that should be conquered even before the meeting.

[Ganor] In other words, are you making the attainment of the assurances demanded by the Inner Cabinet a precondition for the meeting?

[Shamir] Certainly. I believe that when the meeting is held, the ministers who participate in it will want most of the hindrances, obstacles, and demands of the parties to be resolved. Otherwise, the danger exists that this meeting will not yield any results. It will not be a success then, and no one wants this.

[Ganor] But up to now, no date has been set for that meeting.

[Shamir] Right now there is still no date.

[Ganor] Mr Shamir, you remarked on the changes in East Europe. How have they been manifested in those countries' relations with Israel?

[Shamir] We saw very clearly the immediate effects of the changes in the East European countries in their attitude toward Israel. One can hear very explicitly, in every country without exception, that they want to resume—or establish—normal diplomatic ties with Israel. These countries view this as one expression of the great changes that have occurred there.

[Ganor] Does this also apply to the Soviet Union?

[Shamir] The Soviet Union is a totally different kettle of fish, even though some changes have taken place there as well. After all, we have seen some ties: We maintain a diplomatic delegation in the Soviet Union, they have a representation here; there are ministerial visits; and there is immigration, which is the most remarkable change that has taken place over the past 12 months. Still, some hurdles remain. Evidently, there is opposition in influential circles in the Soviet establishment to the resumption of full relations with Israel. One may, however, expect further progress.

[Ganor] Mr Prime Minister, the decade is reaching its end, culminating in dramatic events, as you said. All of them, however, have taken place outside our region. As prime minister, on the threshold of another decade, what events do you expect to occur?

[Shamir] I am convinced that changes will take place in Israel as well. No one can state with any certainty exactly when they will happen, but they will happen. When one speaks of changes in our region, one means mainly peace. I think and firmly believe, in light of what we have seen recently in Eastern Europe, that peace will come sooner if it is coupled with a stronger leaning in the Middle East toward greater democracy. I believe democracy and peace are a pair. It is always easier to make peace among democratic countries.

[Ganor] Mr Prime Minister, thank you very much.

[Shamir] Thank you.

Prime Minister Explains Compromise on Weizman

TA0301203390 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1940 GMT 3 Jan 90

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by moderator Yoram Ronen and political correspondent Yig'al Goren on the weekly "Moqed" program—live in the Prime Minister's Office]

[Excerpts] [Ronen] Good evening from the Prime Minister's Office. In the 24 hours that have passed since the 'Ezer Weizman affair ended, many commentaries and evaluations have been written on who won and who lost, who was strengthened and who was vanquished. Many questions are still being asked about the affair, and most are directed at you, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. Good evening, sir.

[Shamir] Good evening.

[Ronen] Prime Minister, the first question that must be asked is how could you keep a minister whom you accused of collaborating with our archenemies?

[Shamir] I shall explain. First, I would like to say that everything I said on Sunday to the Cabinet and on television to the public is true. I am responsible for every word I uttered. I appealed to the public and admitted that I am taking such action with a heavy heart, because I value the existence of the national unity government, but I could not take it any more and decided to act. I was determined to act to prevent Cabinet ministers from contravening accepted norms through actions opposed to the government's policy and by maintaining contacts with terrorist organizations, led by the PLO. On Sunday and Monday, I insisted on the Weizman dismissal, although I realized it endangered the continued existence of the unity government, which—as everybody knows—I highly value, and the dangerous developments which might come in the wake of its downfall. But on Tuesday morning when a proposal arrived from the defense minister's circle that included 'Ezer Weizman's removal from the Inner Cabinet, the most sensitive and secret body in the government...

[Ronen, interrupting] Except for the forum of four.

[Shamir] No, I would say it is more important than the forum of four. There was also 'Ezer Weizman's commitment not to do anything in the future which might harm the government's resolutions and principles. It also contains an admission that he was mistaken in his previous actions. When that proposal came, I decided that I must accept it, although it contains a certain compromise. Let us see, however, what was achieved. First, 'Ezer Weizman was punished. He has, so far, not been removed from the Cabinet...

[Ronen, interrupting] So far?

[Shamir] If he continues in his actions, he will stop being a Cabinet member, but he was removed from the Inner Cabinet, and for somebody like 'Ezer Weizman, that is a serious blow. A message was transmitted to everybody in Israel and outside the country that the government will no longer tolerate any licentiousness and moves contrary to its resolutions and principles, no matter who is involved.

[Goren] I believe the real question is—and every citizen asks himself...

[Shamir, interrupting] Why are you preventing me from completing my answer?

[Ronen] Please, go ahead.

[Shamir] I said that in addition to the punishment that 'Ezer Weizman received and the warning transmitted to others who perhaps considered acting similarly, a clear and precise message was transmitted to all international bodies that Israel will not permit and will not enter into any negotiations with the PLO even under some fig leaf. In addition, the unity government will continue to exist. When I saw this picture, I said I must accept the compromise, and I believe that the people of Israel are happy about it because it serves the interests of the State of Israel and because the primary aim was achieved: To stop lawless acts.

[Goren] Mr Prime Minister, I believe that most Israelis also ask themselves what sort of deal this is. If Minister Weizman, who you charged with such grave things, is guilty, then how does he continue to be a Cabinet minister, and if he is innocent, then why was his blood spilled freely?

[Shamir] I am not a judge, and I did not present myself as such. I had to act against a dangerous phenomenon through political means, and that is what I did. I stopped the licentiousness of negotiations with the PLO, which is contrary to government resolutions; I punished the man responsible; and I transmitted a message to the world. I also managed to keep the national unity government together. In reference to innocence or guilt, the court must decide; I am not a judge and I do not rule out any judicial hearing.

[Ronen] Mr Prime Minister, you are not a judge, but you could have presented, and you can still present, the grave

incriminating evidence to the attorney general with a recommendation to bring Minister Weizman to trial.

[Shamir] If the attorney general appeals to me—and I understand that complaints were presented to him—he will receive the material. I will consult with legal advisers about what can be shown and what is banned. Everything will be available to the attorney general....

[Ronen, interrupting] You will not present him with the material on your own initiative?

[Shamir] Others have done that; complaints have been presented....

[Goren, interrupting] In your opinion, does incriminating material exist?

[Shamir] I must act politically, and that is how I acted. I believe that I achieved my aim, and by means of the compromise I also saved the unity government. It is true that this was done with the help of the defense minister.

[Goren] Mr Prime Minister, you said in the past that you want to maintain the unity government, but not at any price. In this instance, it seems that in fact there is almost no price too high—even the Weizman affair—as long as the unity government continues to exist.

[Shamir] What did you mean when you said no price was paid? Weizman is paying a heavy price, a warning was issued to all those who wanted to follow in his path or those who tried to help him in his wayward path. In addition, all international elements now know that Israel takes terribly seriously what is stated in its basic guidelines and in the peace initiative: That there will be no negotiations with the PLO.

[Goren] But it seems you are in a minority even in your own party, because even Minister Dan Meridor—who conducted the negotiations with Yitzhaq Rabin—said on television yesterday that, in his view, Weizman should not be a Cabinet member.

[Shamir] I also said he should have been removed from it, but a certain compromise was achieved. He was ousted from the Inner Cabinet, a move to which Minister Meridor also agreed. On your remarks about a majority, my friend: Well, nobody has yet voted. If you conduct a survey among the public, I am sure of who will win.

[Ronen] We are talking about a majority in the Likud leadership.

[Shamir] I also have a majority in the Likud, if we put it to the test.

[Ronen] In the Central Committee?

[Shamir] Yes, we will put it to the test in the Central Committee too.

[Ronen] I would like to ask you another question, Mr Prime Minister. What would have happened had you stuck to your decision to dismiss 'Ezer Weizman and not take back the dismissal letter? Do you fear that, in such a case, Shim'on Peres could have formed a narrow-based government?

[Shamir] Look, first, what could have happened—a certain gamble was involved—the government might have fallen. In such a case, we would have faced two possibilities: either a Labor-led narrow-based government, and I have already said that a narrow-based government is bad for Israel and contains great dangers.

[Ronen] Even a Likud-led narrow-based government?

[Shamir] It must be avoided, not to the same extent, but I also do not want a Likud-led narrow-based government. That is, however, not a feasible option at present. The other option was early elections. I do not fear elections, but I believe that the State of Israel cannot permit itself to hold elections every year; it costs a great deal of money and could cause much damage. I, therefore, said we have a way out that I did not previously consider: 'Ezer will be punished; the lawlessness of running after the PLO is ended; and the national unity government continues to exist. That is a logical and good way out.

[Goren] Mr Prime Minister, if we are talking about a logical and good way out, why did you not summon Minister Weizman—part of the material has existed for a long time—and in your traditional quiet way not tell him: Mr Minister, this is the incriminating evidence against you; if you do not stop we will put you on trial; rather than make the whole affair into a political issue?

[Shamir] That is something else. I did not create a political issue, it is a political event, it is a political fact. 'Ezer said himself: I did it for a political purpose. When I was presented with the material several months ago, I said that perhaps it is a one-time incident; let us see what happens.

[Goren] Even if it is a one-time event, is that not grave?

[Shamir] It is grave, but when it involved one person—although it did not remain only one person—I did not do anything. But when it was repeated and became a very serious phenomenon with repercussions, I said I must end it, especially when I saw there were other people also considering such lawless behavior.

[Goren] When you say repercussions, do you mean that 'Ezer managed, as he said himself, to get the PLO to accept the Baker initiative just as the Israeli Government had done?

[Shamir] I am not referring to the significance of the outcome. There could be a legitimate debate over whether there should be negotiations with the PLO or not, whether a Palestinian state should be accepted or not. That is an issue which can be debated ad nauseam. But when there is a government resolution and there are basic government guidelines and government principles, nobody has the right to try to act contrary to them, even if he is a Cabinet minister. For an ordinary citizen, there

is a law which bans such actions; for a minister the law is not sufficient, there must be a political sanction. That is my task, and that is what I did.

[Ronen] You said, Mr Prime Minister, that you had feared other persons in the upper political echelons would be harmed by the Weizman affair. Did you, perhaps, mean Shim'on Peres, who—according to 'Ezer Weizman himself—had been on the other line when he, Weizman, was speaking with Dr Ahmad al-Tibi, who was in Tunis, and who advised Weizman what message to relay to the PLO?

[Shamir] I will name no names. It suffices for one minister to be implicated in this affair. I hope that, by raising the issue, I will put an end to it. As I have already said, I do not wish to make the fire even larger. [passage omitted]

[Goren] Mr Shamir, your colleagues, the Likud ministers—some of whom you may like more than others—are now saying that your assessment had been erroneous. When you started the crisis, you did not assess properly what its end would be; when you discovered in the middle of the crisis that the government was about to slip out of your fingers, you agreed to an unprecedented compromise....

[Shamir, laughing] Where was the bad judgment? I think I got lucky here!

[Goren] Of a narrow-based government...

[Shamir, interrupting] I got lucky here. I made this move while taking a chance that the government might fall, because I felt I could tolerate it no longer. And at a certain moment, someone came and handed me a proposal that made sense and that I could accept. True, it did not stipulate that the culprit leave the Cabinet just then, but he was to be removed from the Inner Cabinet. It is a very serious measure, a very grave measure, nothing like that has ever happened before. [passage omitted]

[Goren] Mr Shamir, in the midst of the Shin Bet affair several years ago, you said that exposure is highly detrimental to the security services. Meanwhile this week, during the Weizman affair, material of the Shin Bet, the Mosad was freely exposed for the whole world to see; and you, the prime minister, were party to it.

[Shamir] Do you think I do not know what I may or may not expose? There is a big difference between this affair and that other you have mentioned, where a great deal was exposed. In this case, I referred to documents which I showed to no one.

[Ronen] You showed them to the NRP [National Religious Party].

[Shamir] No, I only read out a few phrases from that document. I did not show the document itself. Looking back, I am glad that Weizman did not see the document either, because it would have exposed the material too much. I quoted a few passages, that is all. I do not think this will cause any harm whatsoever. I must repeat: Our security services are excellent, wonderful, and they are innocent of the slightest political involvement.

[Goren] I can tell you this, Mr Prime Minister, and I am responsible for my words: There are quite a few people in the Shin Bet who are saying that political use was made of classified material, and that the feeling is that there is no clear-cut line between using it for what it is meant for and between using it for political ends.

[Shamir] Look, the secret services are responsible for amassing, gathering, and analyzing material, and for handing it over to the leaders. The use made of this material is none of their business. They have to see to it that no harm comes to their work, that is all. And stop telling me things on behalf of anonymous people! I see in front of me live people who are directing, working, acting. Have no worry! They will continue working and acting and bringing back results. [passage omitted]

[Goren] This whole affair revolved around negotiations with the PLO, yet Defense Minister Rabin had released Faysal al-Husayni, the PLO chief in the territories, less than a year ago. Minister Arens admitted in the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee to requesting information about the PLO. In fact, there are constant direct and indirect contacts with the PLO. The United States relays information to us, and no one can deny that we know what the PLO is doing through the United States. What then is all the fuss and bother about?

[Shamir] Look, you are mixing irrelevant facts.

[Goren] This is only a small part of what we know.

[Shamir] There is no connection. There may be negotiations for the release of POW's, and, as I once said myself, we can break many rules where the release of POW's is concerned [pounding the table]. There are, however, no political negotiations between us and the PLO, and there will be none! This is what I wanted to tell all the international elements. Moreover, we have reasons for our attitude: Such negotiations will lead to a Palestinian state, which will bring about the demise of Israel, God forbid. Therefore, it will not come to pass if we prevent the beginning of such a process. I think that by making the move, I prevented this process to a certain extent—perhaps to a great extent.

[Goren] Then what happens now is that if I want to negotiate with the PLO, I can be a Cabinet minister, but not an Inner Cabinet member.

[Shamir] That is ridiculous; neither a minister nor an Inner Cabinet member can conduct negotiations with the PLO. If any minister allows himself to hold independent negotiations with the PLO, he will be punished at once.

[Goren] If you get to know about it.

[Shamir] I hope I will know.

[Ronen] Mr Prime Minister, is this not a game of make-believe? Even the defense minister said several times—without using this term of indirect negotiations with the PLO—that this, in fact, is the reality. The Americans are talking with the PLO, as are the Egyptians. Rabin said: I do not care with whom the Egyptians are consulting, including the PLO, as long as the political process is promoted. There are, then, negotiations with the PLO.

[Shamir] Did you hear the remarks the defense minister made yesterday? He opposes negotiations with the PLO; he opposes the establishment of a Palestinian state. What else do you want? Even Peres said that he opposes negotiations with the PLO. So what does it have to do with games of make-believe? All these nuances mean something.

[Goren] How long can Israel continue postponing, evading the moment of truth when it will have to decide whether the peace initiative can be promoted? Even now, it appears that Elyaqim Rubinstein returned almost empty-handed from the United States.

[Shamir] Not true! Not true!

[Goren] We have very authorized information about that.

[Shamir] We have, I have... [changes thought] Perhaps you will believe me that I have more authorized information than you...

[Goren, interrupting] And what does it say?

[Shamir] ...and than those who gave you your information.

[Goren] And?

[Shamir] Rubinstein achieved what he had to achieve. He relayed the Israeli Government's opinions and views on this process to the U.S. Government to prevent processes and moves which are likely to divert the peace process from its proper tracks.

[Ronen] What did the Americans tell him?

[Shamir] Look, it is not my habit to relate what should not be related. There are sometimes occasional differences of opinion. We are in the midst of talks; we are on the track of debates. The peace process is a complicated and complex entity. We have reached a certain stage in which that much-talked-about Egyptian, U.S., and Israeli foreign ministers encounter has to be prepared. This is the stage at which we now find ourselves, and it is in the framework of this stage that Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein visited the United States, doing an excellent job of it. Why then insult him?

[Goren and Ronen together] We are not insulting him.... The question is whether the Americans have accepted.... Three months have passed...

[Shamir, interrupting] What is the question? Do they have to accept everything? Do we have to accept everything they say? [passage omitted]

Peres Says Narrow Government Option 'Exists'

TA0301184190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 3 Jan 90

[Text] Labor Party leader Shim'on Peres said this evening that his party had chosen not to break up the government coalition over the 'Ezer Weizman affair even though it was in Labor's power to set up a narrow government together with the religious parties.

Peres emphasized that the national unity government continues conditionally and that it is time for Labor to renew its traditional partnership with the religious parties. Peres was speaking to reporter Le'a Zinder at a Histadrut gathering in Tel Aviv.

[Begin recording] [Peres] I think all the time that there are some changes in the religious parties. Peace has become part and parcel of their consideration. The most important rabbis took a position on it which makes this alliance much more reasonable and much more promising.

[Zinder] So, in other words, during this last crisis you discovered that the Labor Party has it in its power to set up a narrow government together with the religious parties?

[Peres] I would say I know it for a long time. Maybe it was repeated in this crisis. I don't want to go too much into details, but I do believe that such an option existed and exists.

[Zinder] So why not exercise the option and set up a narrow government?

[Peres] As long as there is a peace process, we shall continue to be in a wide government.

[Zinder] And because the Likud knows that you have the option of going with the religious parties, are you going to use this threat to get the Likud to get the peace process moving?

[Peres] It is not a threat, it is an alternative. Yes, it should be known clear and loud.

[Zinder] What kind of time-frame are we talking about? How much time are you giving the Likud to get the peace process moving again?

[Peres] I don't know. I think that we are nearing the ultimate decision in a matter of weeks or maybe months. [end recording]

Polls Gauge Public Views on Weizman, Shamir

TA0201151090

[Editorial Report] Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 2 January carries a Dahaf Institute poll on page 1. The pollsters surveyed 585 individuals "constituting a representative segment of the adult Jewish population" in a telephone poll "yesterday."

To the question of whether "'Ezer Weizman did the right thing or not by maintaining contacts with PLO members," 27 percent said he did the right thing; 70 percent said he erred; and 3 percent refused to comment. The breakdown of the responses to the question of "whether it was right or wrong to fire 'Ezer Weizman from the Cabinet?" is as follows: It was justified move—52 percent; the measure was unjustified—46 percent; no answer—2 percent.

Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 2 January carries a Teleseqer poll on pages A1 and 2. That poll surveyed "approximately" 400 people 18 years or older from all over the country, who were presented with the questions "last night."

According to that poll, "the percentage of those who support Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's move is only a fraction higher than the percentage of those who object to Weizman's ouster." Thus, the answers to the question of whether they agreed or disagreed with the prime minister's decision to dismiss Weizman were as follows: 43.7 percent agree; 40.7 percent disagree; and 15.6 percent had no opinion.

Knesset Rejects No-Confidence Motion 3 Jan

TA0301153590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 3 Jan 90

[Excerpt] The Knesset has rejected the no-confidence motion in the government submitted by Agudat Yisra'el in the wake of the permit given by the police to hold a demonstration in Jerusalem last Saturday. Thirty Knesset members voted against the motion, 12 supported it, and 11 abstained.

Letter Bombs Received; Public Warning Issued

TA0101061490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 1 Jan 90

[Text] In several parts of the country in the past few weeks, letter bombs have been received in the mail. The police say they were sent to a number of residences, and so far, sappers have managed to defuse all of them without causing any harm. The public is warned to be on the alert and is asked to inform the police immediately if any post arouses suspicion. Any letter or parcel arousing concern should be put in a safe place until the police arrive.

A grenade that had been emptied of explosives was found last night under the car of Sonia Peres, the wife of the vice premier, at their home in Neve Avivim, north of Tel Aviv. The grenade was discovered at about 0200 by a policeman guarding the Peres residence. A police sapper was called, who found that the explosive had been removed. The police are investigating.

PLO Debates Holding Negotiations With Israel

TA3112111789 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 31 Dec 89 p 5

[Report by Yitzhaq Meridor and Muhammad Khalilah]

[Text] The Arabic language weekly AL-SINARA, which appears in Nazareth, has reported that "the PLO leadership recently held an intensive debate on the political trends inside Israel in light of the growing demands of Israelis to hold direct negotiations with the PLO."

The report said that Palestinians from all the Arab countries, U.S. citizens of Palestinian descent, and Arab residents from the territories participated in this debate.

The paper added that the visit to France of Knesset Members [MK's] Muhammad Mi'ari and 'Abd-al-Wahhab Darawshah was in connection with this matter.

MK Mi'ari spoke with a correspondent from AL-SINARA and denied having visited Tunis, while MK Darawshah replied to the same question with a "no comment."

It has been learned that, upon his return to Israel, MK Darawshah met with senior Labor Party officials including MK 'Uzi Bar'am, Deputy Finance Minister Yosi Beilin, and Minister 'Ezer Weizman and briefed them on the PLO's positions regarding direct negotiations with Israel.

Darawshah stressed that he intends to continue holding contacts with the PLO and added that he is now waiting to receive a response from Ministers Rabin and Sharon, whom he wants to meet with and report to regarding his meetings.

JERUSALEM POST Editors, Writers Resign

TA0301151990 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 3 Jan 90 p 5

[Report by Lili Galili]

[Excerpts] Twenty editors and senior journalists at THE JERUSALEM POST yesterday received letters of dismissal from Yehuda Levi, the newspaper's publisher. The dismissal notices were sent less than 24 hours after the same workers sent letters asking to be relieved of their duties at the paper within 30 days. Because of the immediate departure of the editors and most senior journalists, the newspaper will appear today in a much smaller edition. David Gross, editor of the international edition, was appointed temporary editor. Gross was known at the paper for his right-wing views.

The dismissals came about a week after Editor Erwin Frankel resigned following his struggle for journalistic freedom at the paper and against Levi's intention of controlling editorial policy and changing it. The number of resignations from the newspaper reached 25 yesterday. [passage omitted]

Among those dismissed on the spot are Menahem Shalev, the newspaper's diplomatic correspondent; political correspondent Dan Petreanu; Managing Editor David Landau; Yehuda Litani, head of the Middle East desk; and others. The other employees, including most of the economic desk, which has in fact been left empty, received letters accepting their resignations, but stating that "the precise date will be decided jointly after a discussion on the matter."

Immediately upon receiving the letters, the dismissed employees were banned from using the newspaper's computer system.

It has been learned that, shortly after the dismissal notices were sent, telephone calls from potential investors checking on the possibility of hiring the just-resigned team began arriving.

Publisher Yehuda Levi said yesterday that he has already taken on eight new employees. [passage omitted]

Diplomatic correspondent Menahem Shalev summed up: "It is clear today that THE JERUSALEM POST that existed up to now no longer exists. It is hard to know what will replace it." [passage omitted]

Economic Editor Shlomo Ma'oz said: "We held extensive negotiations with Levi to guarantee that he would not intervene in the work of the editorial staff. We conducted a struggle on principles, which is now over. An era has also come to an end."

In a television interview yesterday Levi said: "I was handed a money-losing newspaper managed by journalists. Now I want to run it. I did not try to intervene in the running of the editorial side. I tried, and succeeded, in running the newspaper as a large business out of economic considerations and not just journalistic ones.

Paper Says PLO Policy in East Europe 'Failed'

TA0201164590 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in English 1 Jan 90 p 4

[Editorial: "Re-Thinking Foreign Policy"]

[Text] There is turmoil in Eastern Europe. Governments are falling under popular pressure, and as a result new foreign policies should be expected to emerge. This means a total re-evaluation of Palestinian policy toward Eastern Europe.

What can be deduced so far is that the PLO was not prepared for the changes and apparently did not predict them. The PLO's policy toward Eastern Europe, and that of the Arabs in general, was taken for granted for four decades. Eastern Europe voted at the United Nations in favor of Arab resolutions and followed suit with Soviet foreign policy toward the Palestinian question. Therefore, the Palestinians and the Arabs saw an ally in the Soviet Union and the Eastern bloc, and sat back in comfort believing that nothing would change this attitude.

That was correct until recently. Even though change has been in the offing in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe for over a year, there was no real Palestinian effort at evaluating the change and adjusting policy accordingly. The region was still taken for granted. As change engulfs Eastern Europe, Palestinian policymakers are finding themselves unable to deal with its rapidity. In some places, such as Romania, Palestinians are facing an ugly war inflamed by Arab-haters who are taking advantage of the anarchy to arouse public sentiment against the Palestinians.

The swift anti-Palestinian reaction caused by such propaganda reflects to a certain degree the feelings of many Eastern Europeans toward the Palestinians. Palestinian policymakers took for granted the governments and people of Eastern Europe. While they were correct in their appraisal of the governments, at least until the recent changes, they apparently were not so correct about popular feelings. The people have hated their governments and now they are showing hate to their governments' friends as well.

That is where PLO policy in Eastern Europe has failed. It did not establish good communications and contact with the people of Eastern Europe and was satisfied with a good relationship with the governments.

Even when change was underway, violent as it was in places such as Romania, the PLO did not move fast enough to adjust itself to it. The reason this was the case should be one of the subjects the PLO political department studies and takes quick action to remedy. If the fault is of the Palestinian ambassadors to these states, they should be replaced by more efficient ones. As a matter of fact, there were several criticisms leveled against Palestinian embassies and offices abroad, charging them with inefficiency and failing to do their work satisfactorily. This demands that the PLO undertake an overall evaluation of its embassies' work and its foreign policy and introduce changes compatible with the developments observed abroad.

We do not have to lose the support of Eastern Europe because Communist governments are losing power. Our struggle is right and just and not much different from the struggle of the people of Eastern Europe for freedom. This in itself should convince the people of Eastern Europe to support our struggle. The PLO is a popular movement, not an elite organization. It should keep this fact very clear.

'Armed Figures' Stopped From Crossing Jordan

TA0401080490 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0748 GMT 4 Jan 90

[Report by military correspondent 'Amos Har'el]

[Text] An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] unit that was on a patrol mission south of Kibbutz Gesher in the Jordan Rift Valley this morning spotted two armed figures. The two reached the Jordan River, apparently with the intent of crossing it. The IDF patrol fired at the two figures and stopped the men from entering Israeli territory. Searches in the area are continuing, and the details of the incident are being investigated now. The shoot-out took place between 0800 and 0815 this morning.

Let us recall that on Monday morning there were reports of shooting at an IDF patrol near Hamat Gader, although searches revealed nothing. Last year, there were at least eight incidents along the Jordanian border. They included clashes, incidents of firing at patrols, and once even a katyusha attack.

[Newsroom announcer 'Adi Talmor] This, then, occurred this morning south of Kibbutz Gesher. Let us emphasize once again that none of our troops was hurt and that no damage was caused.

Palestinian Officials Congratulate Prime Minister

JN0301184790 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 3 Jan 90

[Text] Prime Minister Mudar Badran received in his office at the Prime Ministry today His Eminence Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, speaker of the Palestine National Council, and PLO Executive Committee members Bishop Iliya Khuri, 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Yahya, Muhammad Milhim, and 'Abd-al-Rahim Ahmad. They congratulated the prime minister on the vote of confidence his government won from the House of Representatives. The talks also dealt with methods to continue cooperation and coordination between Jordan and the PLO to serve their common interests and achieve further Arab solidarity.

Crown Prince Hasan Leaves for Europe 1 Jan

JN0101131590 Amman Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 1 Jan 90

[Text] His royal highness the crown prince left Amman at noon today on a private visit to Europe. The JORDAN NEWS AGENCY/PETRA said the visit will last for several days, but gave no further details.

Egypt-Syria Ties May Be Israeli-Arab 'Catalyst'

JN3012112689 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 30 Dec 89 p 4

[Unattributed editorial entitled "A Step in the Right Direction"]

[Text] The restoration of full diplomatic relations between Syria and Egypt Wednesday was a bit of anti-climax as all indicators during the past many months were pointing in the direction of such an inevitable return to normalcy between them. After inviting Cairo to attend the last Arab summit at Casablanca in May of this year, it became a foregone conclusion that Egyptian-Syrian relations will be resumed at the highest level. In other words the process that made the restoration of full diplomatic relations between the two countries imminent began a long time ago and was in fact triggered by the Jordanian initiative to reintegrate Cairo into the Arab fold. And the projected Mubarak-Al-Asad summit in January becomes the culmination of this process and the vindication of the old Middle East truth which states that without Egypt the Arab World cannot wage war against Israel and without Syria it cannot sue for peace with the Zionist state. Seen against this backdrop, the restoration of status quo ante between Cairo and Damascus will enhance the Arab bargaining position with Israel immensely and could very well end up being the very catalyst that could bring the Israelis and the Arabs to the negotiating table on solid grounds. No wonder Israel is all hot and bothered by the return of normalcy to the Syrian-Egyptian relations, for their biggest fear is real negotiations that could force them to strike an equitable deal.

What will complete the chain of Arab cooperation and coordination is of course the resumption of full diplomatic relations between Damascus and Baghdad. One may presume that in the wake of the restoration of Syrian-Egyptian relations on all fronts, the next logical and natural step is to put the Syrian-Iraqi relations as well on the right and brotherly course. No doubt Egypt will put its full weight behind such a positive development. There is no better way to crown the entire process of restoring inter-Arab relations to their natural and brotherly levels than to have Syrian-Iraqi relations also reintegrated into the burgeoning Arab relations.

But it is one thing to have diplomatic relations and it is quite another to have fraternal relations governing the inter-Arab relations on all fronts. What Cairo and Damascus need to do most is to translate their newly found relations into synchronised and coordinated policies with regards to all the conflicts that the Arab World faces and will face in the new world that is emerging all around them. It goes without saying that on top of the list of such issues and conflicts is the broader Arab-Israeli conflict that is still awaiting a meaningful resolution. Maybe now, in the wake of restorations of Arab relations, is the time afterall when Israel will begin to talk real business with the Arab parties to resolve the Palestinian question and the other dimensions of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Any eventual change in the Israeli stance towards the Palestinian conflict in the wake of the improvement in the inter-Arab relations would be the best test of the meaning and significance of the restoration of the Egyptian-Syrian relations.

Passports Available Without Security Clearance

JN3012100089 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 30 Dec 89 pp 1, 24

[By Ahmad Kurayshan]

[Text] Salim Masa'idah, deputy prime minister and interior minister, has issued a decision allowing passports of Jordanian citizens in Jordan to be issued and renewed without consulting or writing to the relevant security authorities. New and extended passports immediately will be issued.

Jordanians abroad wishing to renew their passports, however, will have their passports referred to security authorities through Jordanian embassies.

The measures follow an announcement by Prime Minister Mudar Badran during the 10 December House of Representatives session. He announced the return of all confiscated passports to their owners, collection of these passports from the Passport Department, and renewal of expired passports without securing permission from the appropriate security quarters.

AL-RA'Y has learned new measures concerning passports now are being studied. These measures, which are in the interest of the homeland and the citizens, soon will be announced.

Delay of Rallies Urged Until Guidelines Developed

JN3012094589 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 30 Dec 89 p 2

["Petition" column by Muhammad Dawudiyah: "On the Rally and the Rejected Friction"]

[Excerpt] Those who express their opinions must not keep silent, especially since the issue is related to the friction between the Public Security men and the citizens who took to the streets. The sociopolitical forces are duty bound to discuss this matter, study the consequences if the situation is exacerbated, and declare a clear and frank opinion as they always do. Every citizen is duty bound to become a guardian of democracy and a responsible voice for protecting and advancing this democracy.

From the beginning, I should say everyone believes the law must rule, and its provisions should prevail over the martial laws. Therefore, all those concerned about democracy and who believe in developing it for their well-being, as well as for that of their country, are called upon to express their clear, responsible, and reasonable opinion on the conditions of growth, progress, and development of democratic life in our country. Therefore, no one should remain silent, because this silence might be interpreted as hypocrisy or agreement with the conflicts that occurred or might occur between the demonstrators and the Public Security men.

There is no democracy without discipline; there is no life without stability; and there is no progress without security and tranquillity. Hence, one finds himself called upon to continue emphasizing the need to apply the law, respect it, and follow its provisions.

Demonstrations are a form of expression with which we are not yet familiar. This is in addition to the fact we have not yet defined the criteria that will gear demonstrations to the interest of democracy and prevent them from turning into undisciplined and irresponsible acts.

Therefore, what is needed is to postpone rallies until a legal framework is laid down for them, so we will be confident the rallies will not turn into frictions or clashes between the citizen and his brother, the Public Security man.

Any march that takes place without permission or approval is illegal and illegitimate, regardless of its intentions and objectives. The danger is these marches might be exploited by those who do not have good intentions toward democracy, or those who believe democracy means confronting Public Security men, damaging cars, or burning tires.

Under these delicate circumstances, and while taking our first steps on the path of democracy, stumbling, confusion, and everything is possible. Therefore, we hope rallies will be postponed—no matter how pressing they are—until conditions mature and a formula guaranteeing achievement of their objectives is crystallized, so they will not be contrary to what they are meant to be. [passage omitted]

Plane With Medical Supplies Leaves for Romania

JN2912123589 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 29 Dec 89

[Text] Amman—A Jordanian plane carrying 22 tons of medicine today left Amman for Bucharest as a contribution from the Jordanian Government supporting the friendly Romanian people. A Jordanian medical team also left on the plane to render medical services to Romanians needing them.

Paper Reports 'Independent Bloc' in Parliament

JN2812123889 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 28-29 Dec 89 p 3

[By Mariam M. Shahin, JORDAN TIMES staff writer]

[Text] Amman—In a stated attempt to form a coalition which is independent of any given "ideology or sectarian grouping," eight members of Parliament calling itself the independent bloc" [no beginning quotation mark as published] was formed earlier this week.

The new bloc intends to approach legislative issues on a case-by-case basis without a defined platform. "Our goal is to serve the people without ascribing to any given ideology or existing political grouping," said one of the newly formed group's members, Deputy Muhammad al-'Alawinah.

The bloc says it intends to deal with each issue according to subject matter and merit. "The aim is not to follow rigid guidelines when dealing with issues but to be flexible in approaching each issue according to its own merits," Al-'Alawinah said. "This way we can rule out a dogmatic approach. The bloc is open for all deputies to join," he added.

The members of the bloc are said to include Muhammad al-'Alawinah, Jamal al-Sarayirah, 'Atif al-Butush, Ziyad Abu-Mahfuz, Mahmud Huwaymil, Mutayr al-Bustanji, 'Abd-al-Salam Furayhat and 'Awni al-Bashir.

Six of the deputies ran as "Islamic" candidates in the Nov. 8 elections. The eight members of the group may vote as a bloc, but they say that they would not be rigid in disciplining their colleagues in the group since the bloc's stated aim is to be "flexible in thought and action."

The absence of a political ideology in binding the coalition could be seen as a distinctive development in Parliament since two other blocs already formed in the Lower House are both based on either a common or similar ideology or theology.

The Muslim Brotherhood bloc, which had a common election platform, has 22 members in the Lower House. They were voted into Parliament as not only the largest but as the only bloc due in part to the absence of political parties, which were banned in 1957. The Brotherhood ran on a platform whose man sogan was "Islam is the

solution" to all political, economic and social ills. So far they have voted as a bloc on almost all issues brought before Parliament.

The Brotherhood's support of an Islamist candidate, Yusuf al-Mubayyidin, who is not a member of their bloc, for the speakership of the House in November was seen as an initial test of their clout in Parliament. Their candidate was defeated by a vote of 44/36 by Sulayman 'Arar.

The deciding votes in the speakership elections were cast by the "Democratic Bloc." The coalition, which was formed after the parliamentarians took office, is based on a common or at least similar ideological base. Despite the lack of participation of formally-knit political parties in the elections, members of the Democratic Bloc were considered to be running as independents, nationalists or leftists. The coalition membership is still fluctuating. Its present membership is 11 deputies according to the bloc's spokesman, deputy Fakhri Qa'war. They have also voted as a bloc on most issues, although they seem to have less rigid voting behaviour when compared to the Brotherhood bloc.

Another bloc dubbed by two Jordanian Arabic dailies as a "national bloc" appears to be in the making. However, deputy 'Abdallah al-Nusur, who was reportedly forming the bloc, said that reports publishing names of members were incorrect and that the bloc's platform and membership were not yet decided. "Therefore, I can't say anything at this time," he told the JORDAN TIMES.

Lebanese Hizballah Issues Cease-Fire Statement

LD0301174190 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 3 Jan 90

[Text] Following the emphatic utterances of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic revolution and the supreme jurisconsult of the Muslims of the world, about the need for immediate cessation of hostilities between the revolutionary Hizballah movement and the Amal Movement, today the revolutionary Hizballah movement unilaterally declared a cease-fire. According to an IRNA report, the revolutionary Hizballah movement of Lebanon issued a statement declaring: In order to prevent further bloodshed and in order to pave the way for talks, it has stopped fighting in Iqlim al-Tuffah region, 40 kms from Beirut.

According to the latest reports from Iqlim al-Tuffah region in South Lebanon, the situation is relatively calm in that region. On the other hand, according to AFP, al-Fatah forces connected with Yasir 'Arafat have today been stationed in South Lebanon and in the region of clashes.

Amal Vows To Observe Cease-Fire

NC0301180090 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 3 Jan 90

[Text] The bloodshed in Iqlim al-Tuffah has continued for the 12th day. Fierce clashes took place overnight and at dawn, and other intermittent clashes occurred this morning and at noon, amid fresh calls for a cease-fire.

Security reports from the south spoke of Hizballah's evacuation from Hamadah Hill and the deployment there of a Palestinian force, in a development similar to that which occured on Buslayya Hill several days ago.

A responsible media source in the Amal Movement today accused Hizballah of attempting to mislead public opinion by announcing a unilateral cease-fire. The source said the Amal Movement, which so far has adhered to a policy of self-defense, urges the media to conduct an on-site verification of the other party's allegations and to see for themselves the extent of the catastrophe in Kafr Hatta that resulted from the bombardment of the town, as well as the grave damage inflicted on the town's inhabitants and property. The source also called for directly (?naming) the aggressors, those who attacked the Kafr Hatta combat lines and hills yesterday and are still firing at Iqlim al-Tuffah villages today.

The Amal Movement, the statement said, affirms that it is continuing to exercise self-control and will observe the cease-fire, provided that the other party halts its attacks on the south and its inhabitants and withdraws its fighters and troop concentrations to their original positions.

Al-Tufayli Calls For Coexistence With Amal

NC0301185790 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 3 Jan 90

[Text] The Hizballah secretary general has called on Amal Movement members to forget hostilities and start negotiations to end the battles and avoid further bloodshed. Shaykh al-Tufayli criticized the failure to respect the agreements signed by Hizballah and the Amal Movement. He called for a rapid and immediate end to the ongoing battles between the forces of the two sides.

Shaykh al-Tufayli added that Hizballah has no intention to deprive any party of its rights, impose hegemony over any other party, or expand the area under its control. Therefore, I am calling for friendship and coexistence with the Amal Movement, even if this means withdrawal from Jba', 'Ayn Bu-Siwar, and other basic Hizballah strongholds, he declared.

Birri Asks Iran To Stop Arms Flow to Hizballah

NC0401070090 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 4 Jan 90

[Text] Amal Movement leader Minister Nabih Birri has stated that Damascus has stopped the arms supplies to the Movement since the outbreak of the battles with Hizballah. He pointed out that Iran continues the arms supplies to Hizballah. He reiterated his appeal to Iranian Leader 'Ali Khamene'i to stop arms supplies to Hizballah, saying that this battle is the battle of all the Muslims and of the south as well.

Birri Orders Officer Executed; Syria Office Closed

NC0401073290 (Clandestine) the Lebanese Radio in Arabic 0600 GMT 4 Jan 90

[Text] Abu-Jamal, the military official in the Amal Movement, is reported to have been executed at the orders of Nabih Birri. Abu-Jamal was kidnapped 10 days ago for dealing with Hizballah during the Iqlima al-Tuffah clashes.

In Damascus, the Syrian authorities closed the office of Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri on Sunday following the speech he made on the same day in which he attacked Syria for blocking arms supplies to him.

'Awn's Groups Reportedly Storm Officers' Houses

NC0401134890 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 4 Jan 90

[Text] According to security information received from the eastern area, groups of former Army Commander General Michel 'Awn have been storming the houses of a number of Army officers in the wake of the anxiety that has beset 'Awn as a result of his political and military isolation.

It has been learned in this respect that the houses that have been stormed include those of Brigadier General George Harruf and Lieutenant Colonel Yusuf al-Tahhan.

Al-Rasi Says Force Must Be Used Against 'Awn

NC2912185989 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 29 Dec 89

[Text] Interviewed by Kuwaiti newspaper AL-WATAN, Minister 'Abdallah al-Rasi said the situation of General 'Awn cannot be left as it is now. Military force must finally be used to remove this situation, he added.

'Secret Military Wing' Against 'Awn Planned

NC0301092490 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0530 GMT 3 Jan 90

[Text] According to press reports, units of General Michel 'Awn's forces have conducted a search operation in the eastern area during the past few hours. A number of military personnel whose allegiance to the former army commander is doubted have been arrested.

In another development, the Organization of the Free People has announced that it has decided to establish a secret military wing to be called the Christian Revolutionary Justice [Al-'Adalah Al-Thawriyah Al-Masihiyah] whose task will be to counter the acts of aggression that are committed against what it termed the Christian resistance, especially when unidentified parties open fire on military vehicles.

In a call to the newspaper AL-SAFIR, the organization said that beginning Wednesday midnight, all vehicles of the traitor Michel 'Awn will be targets for the organization's operations. The organization advised our brothers in the Lebanese Army to quit until legitimacy is restored. It said: The fate of every agent of the rebel officer will be terrible and we shall counter terrorism with terrorism.

This is the second statement issued by the organization.

Al-Hirawi on Strengthening Army, Security Forces

NC0301080990 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 3 Jan 90

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi said that at its recent meeting the cabinet decided to strengthen the army and the internal and public security forces. He said he asked the director general of the internal security forces yesterday to organize training courses to strengthen the security forces, to increase their personnel, and to open training institutes in the north, al-Biqa', and al-Warwar. He indicated that these forces will then be equipped with materiel in preparation for the implementation of the al-Ta'if agreement clause by clause.

President al-Hirawi said: I became president only to ensure the unification of the country and the establishment of the state's sovereignty and the authority of its organs—the army and internal and public security forces—so that legitimacy alone will predominate and achieve the aspirations of all the Lebanese.

He said that the government is for all of the Lebanese people, no matter where they live or from whatever community they come. He said: I hope that 1990 will mark the beginning of peace.

Al-Huss Welcomes Renewed Syrian-Egyptian Ties

NC3112074589 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 31 Dec 89

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss has welcomed the restoration of diplomatic relations between Egypt and Syria, saying that this development benefits the course of the Lebanese question. Al-Huss added: It is natural that relations among Arab states should be characterized by solidarity, cooperation, and a fraternal spirit. We consider the restoration of relations between the two sisterly states an important positive development at the national level. Lebanon welcomes this development, which will benefit the course of the Lebanese question.

Ja'ja' Discusses Federalism, Partition

NC0401141090 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1245 GMT 4 Jan 90

[Text] Lebanese Forces Commander Dr Samir Ja'ja' stressed the need for all parties in Lebanon to be rationally open to all proposals and ideas in order to reach a solution satisfactory to all sides, because events have shown that all parties should be recognized and that neither party can be excluded from the political arena. He pointed out that from this premise the Lebanese Forces called for federalism within the framework of national unity.

Dr Ja'ja' expressed surprise at Dr Salim al-Huss's reaction to the Lebanese Forces' stand on the issue of federalism, particularly because Dr al-Huss is a decent and objective man and thus far patriotic.

Dr Ja'ja' rejected likening federation to partition, which are totally different things. He said that federation means distribution of powers and responsibilities to several levels between a central authority and an existing local authority, as in many advanced countries such as the FRG, the United States, the Soviet Union, Switzerland, and Belgium.

Dr Ja'ja' exhorted all leaderships to consider and study the issue of federalism seriously and as they please so that we may be able to meet at a round table as soon as possible and discuss details set forth by each party until we reach an agreement on the future of Lebanon as desired by all parties and on the basis of understanding on one formula.

Dr Ja'ja' called for positive neutrality for Lebanon on the Arab and international levels. He noted that this neutrality does not mean that Lebanon should quit the Arab League, but intended only to avoid the policy of axes. He disclosed that several Arab countries now accept the idea of federalism as a firm solution to the Lebanese crisis, particularly since the choice is either partition or federalism, which means a solution toward unity.

Ja'ja' on Meeting With 'Awn, Eastern Situation

NC0201211690 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2045 GMT 2 Jan 90

[Text] After meeting with Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn, Lebanese Forces Commander Dr Samir Ja'ja' called for steadfastness and confrontation so that we will be able to rescue the homeland from occupation. He urged that sacrifices be made to restore this homeland as a state that will not permit intervention by foreigners.

He discounted any attempt to wager on the eruption of any disagreement inside the eastern area, saying that such a disagreement is absolutely out of the question. He stated that rumors must not be believed.

On the proposed Christian conference, Dr Ja'ja' said: The Christian conference must focus on ways of handling the current situation. He pointed out that there are very divergent views on this question and that work and preparation are required if this conference is to be held.

Dr Ja'ja' asserted that he will participate in the day of solidarity with the North, plans for which were announced by Gen 'Awn. Ja'ja' called on everyone to show solidarity with this dear area, noting that to do so is a natural duty.

National Liberals To Participate in Elections

NC3012073389 (Clandestine) The Lebanese Radio in Arabic 0600 GMT 30 Dec 89

[Text] The National Liberal Party has announced its intention to participate in the Lebanese parliamentary elections and thus fulfill its commitment to Lebanon's democratic parliamentary system. The party stated that the people are the source of all authority and the origin of all decisions. In accordance with the existing parliamentary election laws and the party's unchanging principles, the party has approved the nomination of its higher political council members as candidates in all electoral districts throughout the country.

Sa'adah Promises Return to Phalangist Headquarters

NC3112195989 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 31 Dec 89

[Text] A mass was organized by the Phalangist Party's al-Batrun office in Shibtin today for the holidays. Phalangist Party leader Dr George Sa'adah and other political and popular figures attended the service.

Following the mass, Dr Sa'adah delivered a speech calling for the laws on appropriating wealth illegally to be applied. Sa'adah called on officials who propose educational reform to begin by letting students go back to school, for the basic education they need cannot possibly be gotten under pine trees.

Sa'adah said: Many tried to cast aspersions on the Phalangist rock, but they were broken on that rock. We held back from returning to the Phalangist headquarters [in East Beirut] for we wanted to work for unity. Some people interpreted this stand as weakness on our part. However, now that we see what happened to the unity of ranks, we intend to return soon to the headquarters. When the lion leaves his den, he always returns with big prey.

Sa'adah said: They talk of freedom, but where is freedom? Have all the Lebanese deputies turned into traitors and criminals on the run? Is this what freedom means? Has the media come to the point where it cannot report the opinions of public figures? Is this the freedom our young people have died to defend?

The Phalangist Party leader added: Day follows night, and we are in the late hours of the night. International detente and rapprochement have worked in our favor and, despite the delay, their momentum will be restored. This is a fact I know. See you in the Phalangist headquarters soon.

Birri, Junblatt on Palestinian Issue in South

NC0301205090 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 3 Jan 90

[Text] Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri said today that the events taking place in Lebanon are part of a plot aimed at imposing [Palestinian] settlement in Lebanon, whether Palestinians like it or not.

Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt accused supporters of PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat of seeking to seize control of part of the Sidon area as a prelude to a final settlement of Palestinians in southern Lebanon.

French Envoy Notes Difficulties Facing Solution

NC0401105790 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1030 GMT 4 Jan 90

[Text] French Ambassador to Lebanon Rene Ala has said that the French position is clear. It has been outlined by the French Government and various French political departments. He drew attention to difficulties still facing the achievement of a solution in Lebanon. These difficulties are the subject of discussion in French circles, he said. He expressed the hope that they will be removed through peaceful, political means and that the conditions for an accord among the Lebanese can be created so that Lebanon's friends can find a formula acceptable to all the Lebanese.

Following his meeting with the Foreign Ministry secretary general today, Ala said that the meeting was useful and good for future dealings with the new Foreign Ministry secretary general.

Abu-al-Lam' Assails Diplomatic Appointments

NC0401093990 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 4 Jan 90

[Excerpt] After visiting Maronite Patriarch Nasrallah Butrus Sfayr this morning, Foreign Ministry Secretary General Faruq Abu-al-Lam' said that the purpose of his visit was to extend holiday greetings. He said that the discussions did not broach the issue of the expanded Christian conference.

Asked about the intention of the Arab tripartite committee to implement the al-Ta'if agreement, Abu-al-Lam' said: Let them implement the agreement if they can. He described the appointment of new ambassadors as an insult to the diplomatic service. He expressed his belief that no other ambassadors will be appointed. [passage omitted]

Justice Minister Rizq on Al-Ta'if Agreements

PM0401114490 Paris LE QUOTIDIEN DE PARIS in French 25 Dec 89 p 15

[Interview with Justice and Information Minister Edmond Rizq by Dominique Lagarde; date, place not given]

[Text] LE QUOTIDIEN: It is now several weeks since President Al-Hirawi was elected and General 'Awn is still in the B'abda presidential palace. How does your government intend to solve this problem?

Edmond Rizq: Our government is a peace-loving government. Our objective is one of national accord and we intend to achieve it by peaceful means. We are dealing with a very delicate problem because it relates to the partition of a region of Lebanon. We have taken and will continue to take all the necessary measures in the administrative, political, and disciplinary spheres to end this rebellion.

LE QUOTIDIEN: Are you trying to negotiate with 'Awn?

Rizq: It is impossible to negotiate with a rebellion. We are dealing with an official who is rejecting the Lebanese Army's tradition of discipline.

LE QUOTIDIEN: To what are you referring when you talk of measures?

Rizq: We intend to exercise our prerogatives which are those of all governments in a democratic and parliamentary system. The army now has a new commander in chief—General Emile Lahhud. It is up to him to take the necessary measures in the field to regain his command.

LE QUOTIDIEN: Including the use of force?

Rizq: We do not want to resort to violence. We do not want to be responsible for a bloodbath or even to shed one drop of blood. But we have taken administrative measures, such as, for instance, demanding that pay slips must be signed by the competent people before paying soldiers' wages.

LE QUOTIDIEN: But this could go on for a long time....

Rizq: We are taking our time because we are a peace-loving government. I can tell you that everything that Michel 'Awn said about a so-called armed offensive was merely dreamed up to alarm the population and exploit their fear. There has never been any question of an armed offensive. The government's objectives as defined in the general political statement which preceeded parliament's vote of confidence are peace, national accord, and reunification.

LE QUOTIDIEN: What about President al-Hirawi's statement immediately after his election?

Rizq: It was misinterpreted.

LE QUOTIDIEN: So, do you rule out all violence once and for all?

Rizq: I rule out violence. However, I do not rule out the legal use of force by the army to clean up its own ranks. I would like to add, as a Christian and a Maronite, although a lay person, that it is primarily the Maronites' and Christians' rights which are threatened by this rebellion, because it is likely to lead to the erosion of Lebanon.

LE QUOTIDIEN: Do you rule out resorting to foreign forces?

Rizq: Certainly. There has never been any question of appealing to foreign troops.

LE QUOTIDIEN: 'Awn's popularity in the Christian sector stems from the fact that he is insisting on the withdrawal of foreign troops, notably Syrian troops....

Rizq: We want to regain our sovereignty and end the presence of all foreign troops in our country. But we must take account of the real situation. If it happens suddenly, we will have a new disaster, as has happened in other regions of Lebanon. The withdrawal must be planned. Those who delay the country's reunification are simultaneously delaying the restoration of sovereignty and the withdrawal of foreign troops, be they Israeli troops which are occupying the south, or Syrian troops which have been on a mission to Lebanon since 1976.

LE QUOTIDIEN: But the Al-Ta'if agreements do not make provision for the withdrawal of Syrian troops. The only make provision for their redeployment in the Al-Biqa'...

Rizq: The redeployment in the Al-Biqa' is the beginning of the withdrawal. And what alternative do we have? What is Gen 'Awn offering us?

LE QUOTIDIEN: How do you view relations between Lebanon and Syria in the future?

Rizq: Like those which now exist between Germany and France.

LE QUOTIDIEN: Will that include a Syrian ambassador in Lebanon, given that there has never been one?

Rizq: That and other questions must be negotiated between us and the Syrians. There are many possible formulas for cooperation between neighbors and at all events war is never inevitable. We must define interstate relations which do not depend on regimes.

LE QUOTIDIEN: What is your view of France's policy in this whole affair?

Rizq: We love France and rely on it greatly. We appreciate what it is doing for Lebanon and we fully understand its attitude. We also understand the way French democracy works.

LE QUOTIDIEN: Does this mean that you understand that opposition deputies should visit Gen 'Awn even though the French Government has recognized the legality of your president and your government?

Rizq: I have friends among those deputies. I would like to say to them, out of friendship, that Lebanon needs disinterested cooperation to restore unity behind its legal government, and that it wants its friends to refrain from political maneuvers at its expense. The French election campaign must be fought in France.

When those deputies arrived in Lebanon, I contacted the French ambassador in Lebanon and asked him to inform them that I want to meet them. There was no reply, but my proposal remains. As a Christian and a Maronite, I want to say to those who want to protect the Christians, that they cannot serve their interests in that way.

'Awn Proclaims 6 Jan 'Day of Solidarity'

NC0401133390 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 4 Jan 90

[Text] Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn has proclaimed Saturday [6 January] as a day of solidarity with the hostages held in Syria's prison and with those kidnapped anywhere in Lebanon.

Addressing student delegations today, 'Awn said: Now that the plotters and their collaborators have failed to undermine your unity and solidarity, they have resorted to their old method of spreading rumors and distracting you with side issues. He added: The issue of liberation must not be overlooked because it is the foundation for building a sound Lebanon. Therefore, it is necessary to concentrate on the occupier and his agents, including the Ablah grouping [al-Hirawi regime] and former al-Sana'i grouping [al-Huss former government]. This occupier seeks to raise doubts among the citizens.

Gen 'Awn further said: There is one legitimacy and not two in Lebanon. Everyone who cooperates with the occupation will be referred to the judiciary which will sentence collaborators and traitors to death.

Algerian Envoy Denies Committee To Meet 3 Jan

NC0301131090 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 3 Jan 90

[Text] While the Tripartite Arab Ministerial Committee was expected to meet in Algiers today to assess the results of the contacts it made in the decision-making capitals, Algerian Ambassador to Lebanon Mohamed Lakhdar Belaid denied that such a meeting will be held. After meeting with Husayn al-Husayni, speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, today, Belaid said: I have no knowledge of the committee's meeting. The committee might convene soon, but no specific date has yet been set for its meeting.

The Algerian ambassador emphasized that the al-Ta'if agreement will and must be implemented and we are working for its implementation. He also affirmed: We shall overcome the obstacles, God willing. He denied that Algerian Foreign Ministesr Sayed Ahmed Ghazali will visit Lebanon soon.

Organization Claims Attack in Eastern Area

NC0401065590 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0530 GMT 4 Jan 90

[Text] The Christian Revolutionary Justice Organization has claimed responsibility for killing four soldiers in traitor 'Awn's army and warned 'Awn for the last time to evacuate the B'abda Palace before it is too late.

Machinegun Fire Exchanged on Mountain Combat Lines

NC0401070290 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 4 Jan 90

[Text] Machinegun fire was exchanged along the Suq al-Gharb combat lines in the mountain shortly after 1930 last night.

Jordan's Husayn Phones Al-Asad on 'Arab Issues'

JN0201213390 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 2 Jan 90

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad tonight received a telephone call from His Majesty King Husayn Ibn-Talal, king of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, during which a number of Arab issues were discussed.

Editorials on Lebanon, Arab Issues Continue

Iraq's Anti-Arab Role Cited

JN3112094089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 31 Dec 89

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-THAWRAH in an editorial comments on the historic opportunity provided by the al-Ta'if document to save Lebanon. It also comments on the Iraqi regime's involvement in the Israeli enemy's scheme to fragment Lebanon through the deviant clique. AL-THAWRAH says: Everyone agrees the al-Ta'if document constitutes a historic opportunity to save Lebanon from its ordeal. Everyone also agrees Lebanon's enemies are obstructing this agreement and implementation of the reconciliation plan on which the Lebanese people are unanimous. This plan is supported by the Arabs and blessed by the world.

AL-THAWRAH adds: It neither is strange nor surprising to see the general who is rebelling against legitimacy obstructing the al-Ta'if meeting, its implementation, and the process to complete the domination of the legitimate authority over the Lebanese territory. He is involved in an Israeli plot. Those who call for amending or canceling the al-Ta'if agreement and those who agree with Israel in their hostility to Syria, Lebanon, and the entire Arab nation stand with the general in the same trench.

AL-THAWRAH says: The Iraqi regime, which infiltrated Lebanon through its involvement in the Israeli scheme to fragment this country, satisfies its wish for killing and destruction through its support of the deviant clique. It also crystallizes its role in moving Iraq from the pan-Arab position—in fact, in placing Iraq in a position contrary to pan-Arab positions and the higher interests of the Arab nation—through this support.

Concluding its editorial, AL-THAWRAH says: All situations affirm the abnormal state of affairs will end. The Lebanese people—with all their factions and sects—have defined their option of reconciliation. No one can prevent this option's success and victory.

'Year of Arab Solidarity' Urged

JN0101080590 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 1 Jan 90

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Year of Arab Solidarity," the newspaper TISHRIN says: Arab potentialities and capabilities, if mobilized to help create a reawakening of the Arab nation and secure a decent future for it, can help the Arabs make a qualitative leap on the military, economic, production, cultural, and civilizational levels. If such mobilization of potentialities is realized, no Arab state would complain of poverty, unemployment, or external beleaguerment. Moreover, this would help Arabs achieve a strategic and cultural balance that would revive their earlier glories, deter their enemies, and help them regain their occupied territories and recover their usurped rights.

TISHRIN adds: Regardless of the enormous aid Israel receives, it will remain incapable of facing up to a unified Arab nation armed with its military, economic, and production capabilities. The paper goes on to say: The revival of Arab solidarity and the Syrian-Egyptian reconciliation is a big step in this direction. This step not only will help find an Arab solution to the Palestine question and allow the Palestinian people to regain their territories and rights—no, this step also constitutes a guarantee for resolving the Lebanese crisis on the basis of the al-Ta'if accord.

TISHRIN says: When the Arabs place their weight behind efforts to resolve the Lebanese crisis, the legitimate Lebanese authority will use this as a lever to end the mutiny and achieve the unity of Lebanon—land, people, and institutions. Besides, the revival of Arab solidarity helps forge a unified Arab stand. Furthermore, this also would provide the opportunity to catch up with progress realized by advanced nations.

Concluding its editorial, TISHRIN says: The world is undergoing rapid change. Also, scientific and technological advancement is undergoing rapid, revolutionary change. Therefore, it is high time the Arabs rely on themselves and their capabilities. Will 1990 be the year of Arab solidarity and reawakening?

'Awn Isolation Encouraged

JN0201123590 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 2 Jan 90

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Isolation Measures and the Responsibility of Terminating 'Awn's Rebellion" TISHRIN says: Lebanese legitimacy again emphasizes the responsibility its national and pan-Arab duties dictate, in view of the ever-increasing Arab and international support for the Lebanese legitimacy and the national accord government, and with the ongoing efforts to settle the dilemma of 'Awn's rebellion in a peaceful manner—although there are no signs of his possibly bowing to Lebanese, Arab, and international will.

Lebanese legitimacy cannot continue ignoring the rebellious state with all this entails in terms of possibly transforming this phenomoneon into a partitioning state. This is because it is impermissible to endanger the country's unity, and it also is impermissible to give

diplomatic efforts and mediations an indefinite period of time. 'Awn can exploit time to entrench his status and undermine any serious action leading to Lebanon's unity.

After reviewing the role planned for 'Awn and the parallel lines that ultimately will lead to the elimination of obstacles obstructing Lebanese legitimacy, TISHRIN says: It has become obvious 'Awn no longer is the only force controlling the eastern sector, despite all the repressive measures he carries out on one hand, and the enticements he offers on the other. There is more than one party that has started to speak openly about the failure of 'Awn and his schemes. The noose has started to tighten around 'Awn's neck. This dictates intensifying the isolation measures and stepping up their effectiveness. The first days of the new year naturally will witness the beginning of the implementation of a comprehensive plan formulated by the national accord government. The plan was formulated to enhance the government's legitimacy on the national and foreign level, reaffirm its legitimate right to resort to all means to terminate the rebellion and its emblems, and implement the al-Ta'if agreement on which the Lebanese have reached consensus and which was supported by the Arab and international will.

Press on Detente, Intifadah

JN0401084590 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 4 Jan 90

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Nineties Between the Constants and the Variables", AL-BA'TH says: The world has not moved into the nineties in an ordinary way. Toward the end of the eighties, a new situation emerged, falsifying many longstanding pronouncements and concepts, not only between opposing world blocs, but also inside allied and cohesive blocs. Perhaps the most prominent change was the new relationship between the two superpowers. This relationship has cancelled firm facts about the two rival blocs and introduced new elements into the world situation, raising hopes about this new decade.

The paper says world developments create the impression those who have laid tracks for the train of detente are determined to remove obstacles in its way. However, attempts to find a container big enough to accomodate all conflicts and justify current transformations only are theoretical and still flaccid. Those who are waging wars of liberation cannot digest quickly and easily unstable theories on possibily reconciling the interests of imperialism, which has not abandoned its ambitions, and socialism in its genuine sense.

The paper explains: People struggling for their freedom want international detente to be a means of recognizing their rights to self-determination and liberation from imperialism. It adds: In the Middle East, mere slogans and sermons do not hold; the process of detente has only one way: Respecting the principles of the UN Charter, which gives people their rights to freedom, liberty, self-determination, and establishment of the national Palestinian state. Detente should mean inadmissibility of occupying lands of others and respecting the international law.

Under the headline "The Obstacle of 'Awn", AL-THAWRAH says: 'Awn's lust for dominance is unparalleled. Indeed, he is ready to assassinate Lebanon and its people and tear its lands apart for his own purposes. He therefore is going as far as he can in implementing Israel's scheme of dividing the Lebanese territory and people. Under the shadow of anxiety, turmoil, and chaos in East Beirut, 'Awn is blundering. He neither can impose his full control over the areas he now is dominating nor conceal the state of rebellion. It is natural therefore for measures taken by the legitimate authorities to take their dimensions and with popular support, remove this separatist phenomenon.

Under the headline "Zionist Terrorism Does Not Frighten Our People" TISHRIN says: Those who are watching the developments of the intifadah are becoming increasingly certain about the soundness of its methods, the growth of its power, and the strength of its impact on Zionist circles. Moreover, Israel's terrorism, which it has been trying to conceal, becomes more and more evident.

TISHRIN adds: The intifadah understood the nature of the enemy, which would not acknowledge Palestinian rights except through struggle—something the intifadah has been entrenching for the 3rd year. The paper adds: The obvious Israeli terrorism must prompt the United States and Europe to support the just struggle of the Palestinian people against the backdrop of effective Arab solidarity and mobilization of Arab capabilities. This ultimately will force all parties to yield to Palestinian rights.

Afghanistan

Najibullah's Speech on PDPA's 25th Anniversary

LD3112211589 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 31 Dec 89

[Address by President Najibullah at Foreign Ministry in Kabul on 31 December on 25th anniversary of the founding of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan—recorded]

[Excerpts] Dear comrades and friends, esteemed guests. We celebrate the 25th founding anniversary of the PDPA. The party was formed on 1 January 1964 in Kabul and held its first congress; it hoisted the banner of struggle for social justice and economic advancement. Much effort and energy by the understanding and patriotic personalities as the followers of the path of progress and the country's advancement has strengthened and developed the party. The leading circle, which at the same time founded the party, carried out considerable work for the formation, development, and consolidation of the party from a structural and idealogical point of view. A large number of the cadres and activists during the complicated and complex political and social condition of that time used all their efforts and power to form a party nucleus in the cities, villages, provinces, and localities, and to transform it into a truly political mass organization. [passage omitted

The intelligent people of Afghanistan both at the center and in the localities dispatched their brave children to the PDPA and in this way they supported the cause of social justice and economic advancement which was designed by the party. The harsh days of the PDPA's practical struggle, which has now been transformed into a history page of the people's heroism and self-sacrifice aimed at progress, prosperity, and ensuring peace in the country, began. The best children of Afghanistan's people from different categories of the society, from among the country's various nationalities, tribes, and clans were mobilized around the PDPA and created a huge caravan which had the (?ability) to sacrifice everything for the people's interest. [passage omitted]

During recent years and at the present time, PDPA members were and are standing in the trenches defending the homeland and delivering the basic goods needed by the people, living under difficult conditions in the barracks, and struggling against the harsh life. Some 65.4 percent members of the PDPA are fighting day and night in the ranks of the Armed Forces to defend the territorial integrity, safeguard independence and national heritage, and serve the people and historic homeland of the Afghans. A number of our party members, by accepting all sorts of difficulties, are standing in the armed defense of our people's life at the security belts and posts, on highways and in the trenches. And a number of others are working in the various productive fields, services, administration, and other aspects of the social life, with high patriotic feeling. Allow me to convey my warmest congratulations, on behalf of the PDPA, to all the members of the party wherever they are, to the veterans of the party, and to the noble people of Afghanistan who contributed to the formation and consolidation of their children's party. [applause]

In fact, yesterday and the last decades were marked by high feelings; it was a period of logic and realism for our party. To assess the history of the party and to recall its bitter and sweet moments requires accurate and comprehensive, objective and realistic work. [passage omitted]

During the years following the revolution, during the ups and downs of the life of the PDPA, which did not oppose progress, but was in the vanguard of the country's social, economic, and political work, our people and party made enormous sacrifices and defended decisively the homeland, its independence, and territorial integrity. The party developed considerably, quantitatively and qualitatively. PDPA members propagated party policy in the cities and villages and defended national and patriotic interests; and they are still standing.

In reference to the past, if the [words indistinct] of tendencies and the continuation of gains under changing conditions, the search for new ways to achieve aims are not coupled with the consideration of internal, regional, and international changes, positive results cannot be expected. Therefore, let us see what have we learned from the experiences and lessons of the party's history.

First, a link with the people and a realistic approach (?in connection) with these aims. Concerning the socio-economic (?conditions) of the past years, it should be said that despite the consistent and continuous interference in the internal affairs of our country and the imposition of war on Afghanistan, part of the socio-economic plans were implemented and were accompanied with gains. Unfortunately, war and the process of readiness and confronting it use a large amount of energy in all spheres, and the people's standard of living, which should have been improved, was not. In short, war in Afghanistan became an obstacle to the socio-economic growth announced in the policy lines of the state's tasks. Of course, some other reasons such as the [words indistinct] of the party in the society, the lack of utilization of socio-political forces, the lack of mutual tolerance for the [words indistinct] of war, relying on (?the military solution) of all problems, the mechanical (?running up) of the revolution in all spheres and artificial (?tendencies), overlooking the logical phases of changes, forgetting the national-tribal characteristics in various areas, the implementation of general formulas of social revolutions—without considering the conditions and situations in the country, in the region, and in the world—utilizing bureaucratic methods and undue interference in the economic areas of the society, and overlooking the conditions of the society at the time of implementing land reform caused the creation of [words indistinct]. [passage omitted]

As a result, inside the country the natural allies of the revolution were [words indistinct] and even raised

against the revolution. And moderate forces joined the anti-state bands. Of course, the allegation of the occupation of Afghanistan and the so-called danger of communism in the country provided a useful tool for the opponents. [passage indistinct] Imaginary and apparently attractive slogans provided the ground for the (?isolation) of the PDPA. Personalities and skilled patriotic forces, as a result of the manipulation of power by the party, refrained from cooperating with the state, and the social base of the state (?weakened). In brief, the successes as well as the failures of the PDPA in all phases of its life as a whole [words indistinct] that as to how the party has been able to strengthen its links with the people and (?to see) its policy and practical work from the viewpoint of the people.

It was here that, as a result of assessing the past policies of the party, in consideration of the present realities in Afghanistan, the region, and the world, the need for a universal political, economic, social, and military policy was felt. For this purpose the PDPA, based on the assessemnt of the developments of the years after the revolution and the analysis of the conditions under which the state and the party operated, put forward the idea of the policy of national reconciliation.

The foundation of this policy constitutes the cessation of war, the elimination of power manipulation, and the provision of grounds for the broad participation of organizations and forces in the social and political life of the country, and provides the opportunity for the solution of problems through political means. The main aim of the policy of national reconciliation is the solution of questions and problems which have accumulated as a result of the years of war through political and peaceful means, and an end to the fratricidal war.

It was due to these necessities that we chose the policy of national reconciliation and provided the basis for maintaining the interests of various social strata through the exchange of views. Fortunately, some members of the party, who were doubtful until recently about the adoption of the policy of national reconciliation, today more than ever before, believe in the necessity of consolidating this policy as a reality of our society and of consciously working on the path of its realization. Searching for the truth would enable us to truly recognize fundamental matters, and [words indistinct] for the even further realization of our policy. Thus we hope once again to gain new experiences through the realization of the policy of national reconciliation and to enrich the methods and forms of its implementation in consideration of the conditions of today's society. This matter helps toward discarding policies that are not in accord with the realities of our society. In the 3 years since the declaration and realization of the policy of national reconciliation, we have gained a lot of experience. Understanding and negotiations on various levels with various groups is continuing. The number of groups who have joined the policy of national reconciliation, compared with the years which passed, is many times greater. The intensification of this tendency of forces within the ranks of the opponents of the Republic of Afghanistan has come about in the interests of peace in the country, and a number of armed opposition forces have openly joined the policy of national reconciliation. A number of them who, in the past, insisted on the continuation of war and the military solution, now are in a passive and [words indistinct] position.

Despite provocation, interference, and open aggression from abroad, the situation as a whole in the country, except some border provinces and some of the communication highways, is relatively calm. The PDPA, pursuing the policy of national reconciliation, came out of political isolation, pluralism in the socio-political life of the country came into being, the Constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan was approved under the most difficult political-military conditions, parliamentary activity in the country revived after long years of postponement, and the law on election to local organs of the state power and administration was enforced and implemented. [passage omitted]

As you, esteemed comrades and friends, are aware, some time ago the State Security bodies of the Republic of Afghanistan struck the nest of the secret network of Golbuddin in Kabul. Comrades, this great success manifests the fact that the revolution is not only successful in the hot trenches but achieves victories in the covert struggle. In recent days, the enemy spared no effort. It was on this basis that, according to reliable information, instructions have been sent Peshawar to the agents stationed in Kabul to spread rumors that the arrest of the members of the secret organization of so-called Islamic Party of Gobuddin is the consequence of a conspiracy against a number of Hezbi. The spreading of mythical rumors and lies that dozens of generals and thousands of soldiers have been injured is continuing. All the enemy network and agents have been mobilized to launch the aforementioned rumors. Comrades, as the propaganda activity of the enemy network has been assessed, the enemy and those who repeat the aforementioned rumors naturally help the enemy to compensate for his defeat and discrediting on one hand and on the other hand to foment disagreement in the ranks of party members.

I want to declare with full responsibility that there has never been, is not, and will never be any conspiracy in the party against anyone. The main question is only about foiling the enemy secret network which wants to stab us in the back. You should believe that the process of investigation and court proceedings will shed light on the truth of this fact. Party unity is a powerful cause. Many times, with passing of time, the importance of unity has been proven in the life and activity of the PDPA. A party which has mobilized in its ranks millions of aware human beings for the sake of great transformation will never achieve the fulfillment of its great aims and the implementation of its policy with scattered ranks, incompatible leadership, and doubtful cadres.

The issue of unity in the PDPA has been the most damaging part of its life during half of its age [as heard].

During discussion over unity, the serious question has been asked whether there really is unity in the PDPA today. One should reply to this question bravely that, yes, there is unity. The existence of an action program, a charter, and a united general and current policy, the activities of the leading bodies from top to bottom, and finally the realistic life of the party ranks, manifest this matter. Don't the party soldiers who fight alongside each other in the hot trenches such as Nangarhar, Qandahar, Khowst, Laghman, Zabol, Oruzgan, in the highways, security belts, and posts, to implement the party policy, seal their loyalty to party unity by sacrificing their lives? Don't thousands of party members who work under the party name in the trenches, productive and transportation firms, and on the lands and others, and who fight to ensure peace, production of more goods, and transfer of primary goods to the compatriots, represent unity in a good manner? Doesn't the work of hundreds of party intellectuals and scientists engaged in creative work to implement the national reconciliation policy show their firm belief in the indefatigable unity of the party? Without doubt, it is so. This by itself is a great gain and a huge guarantee to protect unity and its further consolidation, expansion, and deepening, which is a part of our party duties in all moments and stages of its life.

Comrades, as we discussed the basic issue, that is, party unity, we should also mention a question which has sometimes been discussed in the party: Have the divisions of factions and old resentful groups been scattered today in the party? It should be said that, unfortunately, in some cases the remains of these divisions can be seen. Why? Everyone knows that, among a number of party members, there are national, regional, tribal tendencies and sometimes basic tendencies [as heard]. As a result, the general interest of the party is being considered as marginal. [passage indistinct]

The PDPA, since its formation, has been a party of national solidarity of the people of Afghanistan. It has represented the majority strata of the country's nationalities, tribes, and clans. The party today, too, is the only national force in the country which has included in its structure representatives from various groups, and its primary organizations exist all over the country. The party has always been aware of the current international transformation. [Word indistinct] from them in a positive and initiative manner to establish the directions of its work and activity.

The policy of national reconciliation prepared the ground for the Geneva accords. Within the framework of the aforementioned agreements, the withdrawal of Soviet units, which had been politically exploited as evidence against Afghanistan and the Soviet Union throughout the length of their presence in Afghanistan, was maintained.

In the present conditions, the PDPA, its aims, and programs are the center of attention of its friends and enemies. The friends welcome peaceful ways and the search for a political solution to our country's problems and affirm the courageous steps that the party has taken after the announcement of the policy of national reconciliation. The opponents, who have lost propaganda support and, as a result of this policy, have lost the propaganda tool and the explanatory reasons for interference and aggression, have embarked and are embarking on even further grudges against the PDPA. After the withdrawal of Soviet forces, the people and Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan were faced with the hard test of independent defense against aggression, intervention, and military operations by the joint forces of the extremists, militia, and regular soldiers of the Pakistani military Corps No. 11 and 12. The independent defense of Jalalabad, Qandahar, Khowst, Laghman, Zabol, and other parts of the country and the maintenance of the security of the country's major highways forced the protectors of the extremists to judge the reality of our country, not through deceptive and misleading information, but on the bases of real facts.

Although some circles in Pakistan, the United States, and Saudi Arabia even now are relying on the military superiority of the extremists through giving them additional chances and time and are assigning them routine combat seasons throughout the year for this purpose, the spirit of a political solution to the questions of Afghanistan is also strengthening. Personalities, circles, and international public opinion are demanding a political solution to the question of Afghanistan through broad dialogue among various Afghan forces.

In the whole world, and including relations between the Soviet Union and the United States, the chill in mutual relations has been left to the past and the atmosphere of trust and international cooperation on various levels has been broadened. Concerning Afghanistan, the political solution of problems on the bases of reconciliation, although slow and blunt, with confidence has been transformed into a live reality in international relations. [passage omitted]

We are an inseparable part of our society and without that we cannot survive. In this way, Afghan society is part of the international community, it sheds influence on it and, in its turn, is influenced by it. The political power and strength of our party fundamentally and directly depends, in accordance with the level of our awareness and understanding, of the special conditions of the country, on international conditions. The recent events in Eastern Europe once again rang the alarm for the future reliance on [word indistinct]. It has proved that the sociopolitical condition cannot be (?reformed) by the formulas of the past, which have lost their ability to practically be (?in accord) with new conditions. These events showed that overlooking the changed national and international situations would have catastrophic consequences.

It should be learned that ideologies should be for the people and should move in line with the demands of the people, because the people and their demands on the policy and plans of the state are not an isolated matter.

but constitutes the major factor in the realization of [word indistinct]. If we study these changes with sufficient depth and patience, we shall find a great lesson in them. The lesson is that if the masses cannot find their demands and interests in the practical policies and measures of the state and a ruling party, they will have no reason to defend them. The past policies bring about results which were in great (?variance) with the expectations and demands of the masses of the people. There is no reason that the continuation of such a situation shall not bring a total rejection of old polices and methods.

These incidents prove another reality—that party members should observe with vigilance and with an ability to accurately gauge the political current, the development of the situation, and the tendencies which have been created. They should display the necessary dynamism to resolve complicated and complex issues before problems accumulate.

We consider these transformations the outcome of the hard realities of the aforementioned societies and an unavoidable reply to the need for a new approach. It is not out of place if we say that the national reconciliation policy, already 3 years ago, correctly predicted realities and developments, and assessed the accumulated past problems. This led to the sharing of power and the formation of an administration with a broad social basis with the participation of all Afghan political forces. Today more than ever, the world believes the correctness of this foresignt and the path chosen by the PDPA. The world has drawn the conclusion that a political solution and broad understanding among Afghans is the only alternative to end the ceaseless pain of the Afghans.

Comrades, the experiences and [word indistinct] of the ups and downs of our party is a treasure that should be used for planning and implementation of future tasks.

What tasks lay ahead for the PDPA? It has been a quarter of a century since the formation of the PDPA. This party has gone through hard times in its struggle to achieve authority to implement the old wishes of the people of Afghanistan. It has obtained experience in leading the social, economic, political, and administrative process. It is 3 years since the declaration of the national reconciliation policy. It is almost a year since the party passed the test of independent defense of the country together with its political allies and its supporters, relying on the heroic armed forces and its brave people. By declaring the national reconciliation policy and learning the culture of joint work with its political allies and supporters, the party has earned the credit to accelerate comprehensive activities to ensure peace in Afghanistan.

Despite the opposition of the extremists to seeing the PDPA in power, the party and the present political system has been transformed into a center of political-social transformation aimed at the political solution of the issues facing the country.

At the present time, the PDPA is acting in a completely new condition. To play its role at this stage, it needs to adopt new methods, forms, and [word indistinct]. Liberation from the old methods and molds and the [word indistinct] of activity should help the party to draw closer to the people and to assist them in the struggle for peace and progress.

The vital importance of improving political-organizational work in the party organizations of the Armed Forces is obvious to all party members. In the short period of independent defense of the country, the Armed Forces have shown high military and morale competence. This is a source of honor for all of us. However, there are difficulties before us. Therefore, the enhancement of the level of readiness and of political maturity is being discussed in the party organizations of the Armed Forces. Party members in the Armed Forces should understand their sensitive role and position toward the continuation of the implementation of the national reconciliation policy, the defense of homeland, and enhancement of party combativeness as a united, cohesive, and efficient force with the highest national cultural level. A stage of activity faces our party and its members which calls for a new spirit to the proposals governing the political issues of our country by using all our efforts and energy. We should make more fruitful the 3-year-old sapling of the national reconciliation with practical and individual participation.

The urgent tasks of our party were accurately formulated in the plenum held in October 1989. Here, I want to talk about a number of pressing tasks of the PDPA—first of all, about the unity of the PDPA. The PDPA has made its ties stronger with the new generation of the party with the passing of every day. Many veteran party cadres and activists are being replaced with new members. Everyday, life and, along with it, all the processes of social life, are changing and developing. The qualitative evolution of the PDPA is also continuing. The new generation being placed in the leading posts of the party should be free from intellectualism, [word indistinct], regionalism, grouping, vangardism, factionalism, determining personal will, and other killing diseases which ate into our party structure in the past and reduced its credibility and influence in society.

It is the duty of the party veterans, cadres, and activists to pay attention to, protect, construct, and safeguard the joint party home into which considerable energy and power has been invested during 25 years and to have a feeling of responsibility toward the next generation.

The solution of many complicated issues lies in the firm unity of the party. Unity of the party is a necessary condition for a new political alliance for attracting other political forces inside and outside the country, for the continuation of the national reconciliation policy in all its dimensions, and for fulfilling the historic role of the PDPA. Proof of the existence of a united democratic PDPA as a reality in this destiny-making stage of the country is essential. The absence of attention to these things is a responsibility before history and can bring dangerous consequencess in the current stage. All the

great honor of the party during the past 25 years was gained during the years of unity. Pluralism of ideology within the framework of general party policy in the cause of arriving at final decisions can be allowed. However, the unconditional fulfillment of the decisions, resolutions, and instructions of the leadership bodies remains a golden rule of party discipline and principle criterion of loyalty to party unity. Any tendency toward groups, factionalism, and sectarianism, regardless of interpretation, is an unforgivable crime against the party, the homeland, and the people. This should be transformed into a firm attitude of each leading member and of all party members. The party should combine the principle of trust of its responsible cadres with the principle of serious control over their activities. No member of the party should be allowed to use the party and state authority which has been entrusted to him in key posts to serve the homeland and the people, for the purpose of promoting personal, factional, tribal, and local interests. [passage omitted]

In connection with the need to change the program of action, I want to say that the condition for approval of the PDPA program of action has been completely changed with regard to the present situation in the national and international arena. Throughout the world and almost in all parties, a tendency to promote the general and national interest has been (?shown). The October Central Committee plenum also considered it necessary to think about a series of changes in the PDPA program of action to include the issue of a coalition, to enhance the party role as a factor in accelerating peace and consolidating of national unity, taking into account the national interest of Afghans.

Based on the experiences gained from the process of implementing the national reconciliation policy, goals and tasks should be set before the party which, in light of realities and of the 25 years of experience of the party, will serve to remove gradually the distance between the general interest of the people and the special party interest.

The party considers domestic and national factors a determinant of the economic, social, and political transformation and will decide its strategy and tactics accordingly. It is not proposing any stereotype model. Of course, external and international factors will have a specific role in this process as an assisting factor. However, one should not consider the effect of an assisting factor and a determining factor as equal, nor distort their role and importance.

The PDPA, as the largest political-social organization, has initiated the elimination of power manipulation and continues it. The active attraction of other political forces inside and outside the country, influential tribal and national figures and patriotic intellectuals, religious leaders, nomads, and all strata of society are the executioners and organizers of national reconciliation within a coalition administration with broad social bases.

In connection with the necessity of the change of name and changes in the charter of the party, [words indistinct]. Many great changes from the viewpoint of social structure and even its aims and duties have occurred in the party during the last year. Without the introduction of such changes, it is not possible to adjust to changing conditions. However, the name of the party has remained unchanged today, as it was during the first year of its foundation. Our party ought to, with the broad meaning of the word be, the party of the people of Afghanistan. It should defend all values, characteristics and national interests of the people of Afghanistan, for whom are [word indistinct] and should strive forward to the people's prosperity. It therefore is necessary to take steps toward choosing a name that will be the precise definer of the party's real (?responsibility) today and tomorrow. Of course, the change in the name of the party is not a mechanical change, but, in consideration of changes in the program, the introduction of some changes in the charter of the PDPA, which regulates the laws of life inside the party and the methods of [word indistinct] of the activities of members and party organizations, is necessary.

The necessity of a new approach to the National Front of the Republic of Afghanistan: The broad unity of forces is the complete guarantor of control over the situation. However, different political forces of the country do not consider the National Front of the Republic of Afghanistan, with its present membership, a political front. Even in order to reach a united opinion concerning the [word indistinct] for a broad political unity of all forces in support of peace and reconstruction, dialogue and [word indistinct] not only with political allies, but with all opposing forces [word indistinct]. The present (?membership), that is, the collection of forces in two (?schools), i.e. the National Front of the Republic of Afghanistan and the Coordination Committee of the Left Democratic Bloc, in consideration of our fundamental aims, is not suitable. Because, undoubtedly, for all parties and organizations who have [word indistinct] and progressive (?aims), the aforementioned unity is is a broad, powerful, and united unity of those in support of peace and not (?limited) unities. On the other hand, relying on the (?questions) of [word indistinct] and unity of the leftists, contains serious [words indistinct] the participation of all forces which is necessary in it. Serious efforts should be made that a broad front should be created of those who support peace and reconstruction with an acceptable membership and program for the broad [word indistinct] of all forces, as a united center for the bringing together of nationalities. This matter, of course, in no way (?negates) bilateral or multilateral cooperation between the constituent elements in this front. The National Front should be formed of the political forces, and the governments of today or those which are formed in the future, should be Front governments. [applause] In that case, the Front could embrace all political forces which are in accord with the program of action of the PDPA and the policy of national reconciliation. Thus, whichever political force wants to

take part in the government, principally should be included in the coalition through the Front.

Concerning the new mechanism of work (?in) social organizations: The party should pay great attention to the social organizations of the Republic of Afghanistan as strong links of contact with the people and should (?support) the current of further democratization of their internal life. The old thinking that the social organizations of the Republic of Afghanistan should be naturally dutybound to follow the PDPA alone should not be allowed. Through the expression of practical attention and the maintenance of the vanguard role of the party members who are receiving the membership of party organizations, the political influence of the party should be transferred to the organizations and their backing should be obtained in support of the party and the policy of national reconciliation. The struggle for peace and democracy has an inevitably inseparable link to political pluralism. The path of peace and stability, through compromises and coalitions, makes the depth of realization and mutual understanding between party members and their political allies a task which cannot be delayed.

Still, not much time has been wasted in this regard. The members of the PDPA should resort to observing all requirements of pluralism in action in all the local and central organs of power and state administration. [Passage indistinct] The national reconciliation has prepared grounds for the new development of our country and society, not only in the internal process, but at a regional and international standard. As a result of important and principal changes in the international relations system, which itself emanates from a new style of thinking, a positive and optimistic climate has been created for a safe and prosperious future in the interest of all mankind. To expand the international relations of our party, we have a new and great [word indistinct]. The party not only consolidates its relations with national and democratic organizations and movements which acted in the past as our international allies, but it finds new allies for itself from among the moderate forces, socialist, social democrats, (?greens), and other forces who are in favor of peace.

A new situation has been created in the world and a new standard organizes the relations between various [word indistinct] and poles. In general, all these relations and intentions will contribute to the consolidation of international peace and freedom from the danger of elimination of the joint home of mankind, that is, earth. We feel the need to expand our relations with all governments and parties of the world, especially with the nonaligned Islamic countries; Islamic, nonaligned, and regional countries. Under present conditions, safe coexistence between us and our neighbors will considerably assist the matter of peace in the region and in the world. All the new possibilities and reserves should be used toward the expansion of PDPA relations with all the national, political, and peace-loving parties and organzations in various countries of the world.

Our relations with the Soviet Union, as a great superpower and our neighbor, has a special place among the total of our international relations, which is based on accepted international principles and norms. Through the history, friendship, goodneighborliness, and extended mutual cooperation have full conformity with the national interest of Afghanistan's people and a major section of our relations was, is, and will be with the aforementioned country. While we assess as positive the climate of the Second Congress of the Deputies of the Soviet People in discussion over the decision to send military forces to Afghanistan, we express the deep appreciation of the people and state of the Republic of Afghanistan for the congress approval of continued assistance by the Soviet Union to the Republic of Afghanistan and the development of cooperation between both countries, which shows the live expression of the Soviet people's support and backing for the people of Afghanistan. [applause]

Dear friends and comrades, members of the PDPA, the 25th founding anniversary of the party has given us all an opportunity to look at the past and to build the future on a foundation of ensuring and assessing the paths that have been passed. Therefore, all of us need the party which has announced the national reconciliation policy and is implementing it, the party that understands its responsibility for the present and future of the country and puts all its activities for the judgment of history and people with the method of self-criticism. It is worthy of endless [word indistinct]. Throughout history such forces have become victorious—who defended and represented their country's national interest and worked and struggled toward implementation of the accumulated demands of the people.

The previous years, and especially the 1 year of independent defense of the country and its territorial integrity as a vivid reality, have been registered in the history of patriotic struggle by the PDPA. We are expecting with hope and assurance the arrival of such a day. To welcome [word indistinct], founding anniversary of the PDPA with more readiness to end war, ensure peace, and serve the people of Afghanistan. We have full confidence that the party members, while celebrating the 25th founding anniversary of the PDPA, will restructure their activities and will use to the maximum limit the resources and reserves that have been created by the national reconciliation policy.

Dear comrades, brave and self-sacrificing brothers-in-arms, use all your power and energy to serve honestly the people and homeland, protect party unity as your honor and conscience, learn from people, and ensure peace for the people with sincere work and acceptance of all types of difficulties.

We all go forward with this slogan and work to realize the urgent demand of the people, that is, to ensure peace in the country. Victorious be the 25th founding anniversary of the PDPA. Long live the national reconciliation policy. [applause]

Najibullah Congratulates CSSR'S Havel on Election

LD3012172189 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 30 Dec 89

[Text] A congratulations message was sent to Prague by Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan. It was addressed to His Excellency Vaclav Havel on the occasion of his election as Czechoslovak Socialist Republic president.

In the message, wholehearted congratulations were expressed and confidence has been stated that the government and people of Czechoslovakia under the leadership of His Excellency Vaclav Havel will become successful to remove the difficulties of present stage of the country. Stress was also made on the efforts of the Republic of Afghanistan toward further expanding and consolidating friendly ties and cooperation between both countries, based on a strong historical and traditional foundation. The message expressed hopes for continued success for the president of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic for the republic's progress and prosperity.

Kabul Coup Plot Jars Najibullah Regime

BK0201050290 Hong Kong AFP in English 0444 GMT 2 Jan 90

[By Pratap Chakravarty]

[Text] Kabul, Jan 2 (AFP)—A group of generals, including the country's air defence chief, were arrested here last month for plotting a coup against President Najibullah, government sources here said. The plot, which resulted in 127 arrests including those of 11 generals, could further widen rifts within the ranks of the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA), said the sources, who refused to be identified.

The air defence chief and the commanding general of a vital rocket base in Kabul's Karra District, whose names the sources withheld, were among the arrested, all members of the PDPA's pro-military Khalq faction, they said.

The Khalq and Mr. Najibullah's moderate, city-based Parcham group are the two main components of the ruling party. The sources said the arrests triggered "discontent" among Khalq members, a minority in the 191-member PDPA Central Committee. They contradicted official government reports that the plotters were affiliated with the Peshawar-based Hezb-e Eslami mujahidin faction led by fundamentalist Golbuddin Hekmatyar.

"It is completely an indigenous group without any leaning to the opposition," meaning the Moslem resistance to the Moscow-backed Kabul government, one source said. Diplomats based in Kabul confirmed this, saying that it appeared the coup plot originated in Kabul. "Why should Defence Minister Shahnawaz Tanay support the arrested generals if the officers had not been Khalqs only," one source reasoned. Mr. Tanay had earlier reportedly refused to turn over the arrested officers to the KHAD secret police for questioning.

The defence minister is a member of Khalq and is related to the faction's chief, former Home Minister Ghulabzoy, who was sent by Mr. Najibullah as ambassador to Moscow in October 1988 as part of a Parcham plan to consolidate its position within the PDPA.

"The Foreign Ministry's stand is that the coup was plotted by Golbuddin Hekmatyar's group and it is baseless (to say) that it was an internal plot," a government spokesman said. He added that investigations were still continuing and that some of the arrested men had confessed to links with the mujahidin resistance, engaged in a bitter war against the Najibullah government. "The arrests of Khalq commanders, all of them military officers, would also give Moscow the right to question Najibullah's hold on his division-ridden party," another source said.

On Sunday, the president warned party executives against "forming groups, factions and splits" in the PDPA, which celebrated its 25th anniversary Monday. Mr. Najibullah suggested organizational changes in the party to keep pace with changes in East Europe.

On Saturday, Deputy Security Minister Yaar Mohammad [name as received] said a clandestine group called the Central Organisation of the Islamic Party (COIP) had infiltrated the PDPA, educational institutions, the private sector and army ranks "from soldier to the top" to try to overthrow the government. Mr. Mohammad said the arrests were greeted with jubilation within the PDPA, adding that the plot was the work of the Hezb-e Eslami and the COIP, formed a year ago to conduct the coup. But one diplomat said he doubted this was true, commenting: "It is not possible for the government to be unaware of a nationwide plot for one full year." The government sources agreed and said the plot was activated only "very recently" among ranking Army and Defence Ministry officials.

Kabul reportedly released three of the alleged plotters, including the head of the Defence Ministry's communications department, as part of an internal deal involving an amnesty offer. No immediate confirmation of the reports was available. Reports that Mr. Tanay had been placed under house arrest have been denied by Prime Minister Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, and the defence minister appeared in public Sunday.

Hekmatyar Denies Involvement

BK0201140090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1355 GMT 2 Jan 90

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 2 (AFP)—Afghan resistance leader Golbuddin Hekmatyar, denying his Hezb-e Eslami's hand behind the recent coup plot in Kabul, has said the Army is fed up with the bloodshed and wants a speedy end to the Najibullah regime. "The Army wants an urgent end to the status quo," he said adding that the majority of troops did not wish to "further stain their hands with the blood of the innocent Afghan people."

(In Kabul, government sources said Monday [1 January] that 127 people including 11 generals, were arrested in last month's coup attempt. Among those arrested was the Afghan air defense chief.)

Mr. Hekmatyar, in a press conference here Monday, strongly denied repeated claims by the Kabul regime that his party had plotted the failed coup. He said none of his party workers was arrested in the crackdown. "The regime will never be able to discover the underground network of Hezb-e Eslami," he said. Calling for an armed uprising, he said: "We still give the Army another opportunity to use its influence in toppling the regime" by collaborating with the mujahidin.

(The government sources in Kabul said many of those arrested were members of the pro-military Khalq faction of the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan.)

The Khalq and President Najibullah's moderate Parcham group are the two main groups in the ruling party.

Mr. Hekmatyar said collaboration between the Army and mujahidin would bring about an "abrupt solution" to the country's problem, where rebel mujahidin have been fighting the Soviet-backed Najibullah government since the Soviet invasion of 1979. Soviet troops pulled out of the country last year. He said the coup plotters should hold elections within six months, adding that his party would accept the results, preferring to "sit in opposition rather than try for a weak coalition." But in the absence of any political solution the option was "to continue resistance as long as we are compelled," he said.

Jamiyat-e Eslami Plays Down Mujahidin Feud

BK0201090290 Hong Kong AFP in English 0841 GMT 2 Jan 90

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, Jan 2 (AFP)—The Jamiyat-e Eslami Afghan resistance faction tried Tuesday to play down the latest crisis to hit the seven-party Sunni resistance following the execution of four members of another faction by one of its leaders.

"We have said for some time that justice would be done and those responsible for the killings at Takhar would be punished," Jamiyat spokesman Omar Sherdil [name as received] said in this Pakistani city which is the resistance headquarters. He was referring to an ambush in July in the northeastern Afghan province of Takhar in which some 30 Jamiyat guerrillas under the command of Ahmad Shah Mas'ud were killed.

Mr. Mas'ud publicly hanged commander Sayyed Jamal, his brother and two other members of the Hezb-e Eslami faction headed by Golbuddin Hekmatyar in Takhar on December 21 after they confessed to the July ambush at an Islamic trial before a 43-man commission of religious leaders, according to the Jamiyat. "We had proof," Mr. Sherdil said. Replying to the threats made Monday by Mr. Hekmatyar against all Jamiyat arms convoys travelling through Hezb territory in Afghanistan, he said "this is nothing new." "The Hezb have been trying to block our convoys for months and we are not the only party to have suffered," he added.

At a press conference in Islamabad Monday, Mr. Hekmatyar "advised" the Jamiyat faction not to travel through Hezb territory until those responsible for the "mockery of a trial" had themselves been brought to justice, and called for an Islamic trial of top Jamiyat leaders. He accused the political head of Jamiyat, Burhanuddin Rabbani, of "ordering the brutal killing."

India

Nepalese Foreign Minister Arrives for Talks

BK0301131790 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 3 Jan 90

[Text] The Nepalese foreign minister, Mr Shailendra Kumar Upadhyaya, arrived in New Delhi this afternoon for talks with Indian leaders on bilateral issues. He was received at the airport by the external affairs minister, Mr I.K. Gujral. Mr Upadhyaya, who could not reach the capital last night because of bad weather, is having a first round of talks with Mr Gujral this evening. Mr Upadhayaya is scheduled to call on the prime minister, Mr Vishawanath Pratap Singh, tomorrow.

The All India Radio correspondent reports that the talks between the two sides will aim at seeking a comprehensive solution of bilateral problems, including matters relating to trade and transit.

Gujral Hosts Banquet

BK0301160990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 3 Jan 90

[Text] India today expressed its willingness to evolve an early mutually acceptable and beneficial solution to all outstanding issues with Nepal. The external affairs minister, Mr I.K. Gujral, said this at a banquet hosted in honor of the visiting Nepalese foreign minister, Mr Shailendra Kumar Upadhyaya, in New Delhi tonight. He said a dialogue alone can lead to happy results (?per) the two contries' desire.

Mr Gujral pointed out that it has been a matter of sorrow that in recent months the uniquely close bilateral relationship had been subjected to strains and tension. He said India is ready and willing to work with its neighbor for a speedy resolution of the problem, whatever may be the reasons for the past misunderstanding. Mr Gujral also assured Nepal that New Delhi will consider Nepal's concern with understanding and sympathy. He expressed the hope that Kathmandu will reciprocate the same spirit of cooperation and understanding. He thanked the Nepalese foreign minister for coming to New Delhi to initiate a friendly and wide-ranging dialogue. The external affairs minister said India hopes to go beyond the restoration of traditional friendship with

Nepal and seeks to strengthen it further for the well being and prosperity of the people of the two countries.

'Dismay' Over House Arrest of Burma's U Nu

BK0301163690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 3 Jan 90

[Text] India has expressed its dismay over the house arrest of the respected Burmese leader U Nu and his close associates in Burma. It was officially stated in New Delhi today that the world has been hoping that the present government in Burma will honor its commitment to hold free and fair elections in May this year, but the placing of U Nu under house arrest and continuous detention of his associates—Mr Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and U Tin U—restricts legitimate political activities in the country.

Body of Missing Punjab MP Recovered From Canal

BK0301124490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 3 Jan 90

[Text] In Punjab, the body of the Akali Dal-Mann Lok Sabha MP [member of Parliament], Mr Jagdev Singh Kudhiyan, was fished out from the Rajasthan feeder canal today. The police sources told our Ferozepore correspondent that the body was recovered 3 km downstream from the place where the turban, a pair of shoes, and other personal belongings of Mr Khudiyan had been found a few hours after his disappearance.

Mr Khudiyan had disappered from his home at Khudiyan village in Ferozepore District last Thursday. His last rites will be performed tomorrow.

Akali Dal-Mann Postpones Strike

BK0301161990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 3 Jan 90

[Excerpts] In Punjab, the body of the Akali Dal-Mann MP [Member of Parliament], Mr Jagdev Singh Khudiyan, was recovered from the Rajasthan feeder canal today. Police sources told our Ferozepore correspondent that the body was found 3 km downstream from the place where the turban, shawl, and a pair of shoes, and other personal belongings of Mr Khudiyan had been recovered a few hours after his disappearance.

The state police chief Mr K.P.S. Gill, immediately rushed to the spot on receipt of the information. He said the divers recovered the body during flushing operations at 1430 today after a weeklong intensive search. The body has been taken to the district headquarters, Faridkot, for post mortem. [passage omitted]

The Akali Dal-Mann has postponed its proposed dharna [sit-in strike] at all district headquarters in the state tomorrow in view of the recovery of the body of Mr Khudiyan. It has called a proper investigation into the disappearance and subsequent recovery of the body of Mr Khudiyan.

The Akali Dal-T president, Mr Jagdev Singh Talwandi, also demanded a high-level probe into the mysterious death of Mr Khudiyan.

Iran

Soviet Azerbaijanis Chant Islamic Slogans

LD0401114390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Jan 90

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, during the past several days numerous groups of people of Soviet Azerbaijan, after cutting barbed wire and passing by border watchtowers, gathered in different areas of the northern banks of the Aras River [Soviet side] and chanted Islamic slogans. The official Soviet news agency yesterday reported that unrest has extended to other parts of Soviet Azerbaijan, including Nakhijevan. A Soviet military source said today that following several days of unrest in the Nakhijevan region, the situation is returning to normal.

Tehran Daily Assails U.S. Actions in Panama

NC0401101790 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 26 Dec 89 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "This Is Just the Tip of the Iceberg"]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Panama has ended a turbulent, difficult, and eventful week. However, it seems there are more difficult times ahead.

The usurpist American forces unleashed their bestiality in full force to break down the resistance of the Panamanian people, and today the U.S. generals and politicians are exulting like an owl rejoicing in the wilderness. Has the Panama incident ended here?

From the point of view of the aggressors and Satanic powers, when the brutes are able to complete their criminal assignment, it is the end of the affair. Even if Washington attempts to announce that the dossier on Panama has been closed, it is just the beginning of the matter; and it can be considered the beginning of an era of bondage for the people of Panama.

It is obvious that the people of a country as small as Panama did not have the military means to rout the criminal United States which was armed to the teeth. However, their heroic resistance to the aggressors shows the steadfast spirit of a nation which did not bow down to degradation and bondage and that whatever occurred in their country was imposed upon them. [passage omitted]

Today, grand marches and ceremonies are scheduled to take place in Tehran to express hatred of U.S. atrocities in Panama and for solidarity with the people of Panama. It is possible that those who do not comprehend the depth of the matter may question the significance of such ceremonies now that the savage American brutes have

overcome the resistance of the Panamanian people. There may be some who feel that with the end of the clashes in Panama, such ceremonies would be redundant. This is a doubt which should be dispelled with a clear answer. An independent and sovereign country has been subjected to an attack by a savage regime. These brutes have destroyed everything in their path. Despite its limited resources Panama has resisted the multi-pronged aggression by the usurpist American troops. The breaking down of the unified resistance of the people of Panama is not the end of the affair but the beginning of an era of bondage of a nation which had as its objective the continued resistance to and the dispelling of the U.S. aggression. [passage omitted]

If the major catastrophe which has taken place in Panama, or the bitter and sad incident of Grenada, are not condemned and if Washington does not face serious and effective protest against such crimes there is a danger that the United States will be motivated to repeat such crimes and will muster the courage to reveal its fangs and talons to other noble and independent nations as well, something which should alert the contemporary world of danger.

U.S. Invasion of Panama Continues 'Cold War'

NC0401103690 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 28 Dec 89 p 2

[Editorial: "West-East Cold War Still Persists"]

[Text] The U.S. invasion of Panama underscores one thing: America sees the other party, the U.S.S.R., weak enough to even use force to consolidate American positions around the globe.

In its Panama adventurism the U.S. of course heavily cashed in on the highlight thrown on the Romanian crisis by news media.

The new wave of U.S. aggressions takes place at a time when very fundamental transformations are taking place in the East European countries. In other words political reforms going on within the Soviet Union (known as glasnost), and in one word, the Eastern superpower, to ease up internal problems have been taken by U.S. as a sign of weakness.

Apparently it seems that from the viewpoint of American strategy the era of the Cold War has not yet ended but that only certain changes have taken place in its method and shape. This view can be clearly evinced in the statements of former U.S. President Richard Nixon, who has recently said, "What Gorbachev intends to accomplish is to bolster his own system... He wants to be relieved from dealing with foreign issues in order to attend more to domestic issues. Their aim is a temporary peace—an opportunity to gain power to launch a fresh aggression for achieving their objective. The Soviets want victory without war." This view seems to prevail in Washington. Cold War appears to be still going on.

Continuation of the Cold War, from the viewpoint of political circles of Washington, can be easily inferred from U.S. military policies. The project, for instance, for building the Stealth, the so-called invisible strategic bomber, by the U.S. Congress, has been pursued simultaneously with the summit of the two superpowers in Malta and the NATO summit in Brussels.

Military takeover of Panama in order to gain domination over the Panama Canal, a strategic waterway of the world, should also be seen along the same line.

Meanwhile the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI), or Star Wars, and the approval of its huge budget by the U.S. Congress too has regularly been followed.

It should be kept in mind that from the viewpoint of U.S. strategists seeing the Soviet Union besides a United Europe in 1992, in addition to having undesirable economic consequences for the U.S., may also raise serious problems in the balance of international forces. Therefore this opportunity, in the U.S. leaders' mind-set, should be seized to gain all the winning cards, whether in military strategy or political arena. The U.S. viewpoint is of course based to change the balance of power in its own favor. Washington wants to avoid by all costs to see challenges coming its way from a European-Soviet alliance in future. As such U.S. is at the top of tensions and developments related to merger of Western Europe and the Eastern bloc. Attempts to occupy the Panama Canal militarily, are made because the canal is one of the world's 14 strategic points. At present however the Soviet Union is not in a position to launch any preventive reactions vis-a-vis America's strong arm policies.

The Cold War then persists but has changed, perhaps, in tone, method and shape.

Editorial on 3d World Support for Panamanians

NC0401104890 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 26 Dec 89 p 2

[Editorial: "Third World Supports Panamanian People"]

[Text] Iranian members of Parliament (the Majles) have invited the nation to hold an anti-American rally in front of the legislative body's premises in Tehran this afternoon.

The suggestion has been quite welcome by all popular and political quarters throughout the nation.

Meanwhile a week has passed since the blatant U.S. invasion and occupation of a tiny yet independent Panama. Reports have it that the Panamanian ex-strongman Antonio Noriega has sought asylum in Vatican's Embassy in that country's capital. But the same reports also underscore popular resistance in Panama City as well as in most provinces across the country against the American occupation forces.

Sentiments and sympathies aired by Third World nations and the anti-American demonstrations in Tehran today should in no way be interpreted as a sign of support for the person of Noriega.

These sentiments and supports are aired for the heroic resistance of popular forces in Panama trying to prevent a foreign power from dictating its policies and designs to them.

Given the nature of its own revolution, the Islamic Republic of Iran is opposed to all kinds of dictatorship as it runs counter to its very foundation and principles.

For a fact however Noriega has been closely cooperating with the White House, and supported by the latter, before a clash of interests ended the political honeymoon between the two.

But what should be categorically condemned is the American outright military intervention in the internal affairs of an independent country. By this act of explicit aggression the U.S. not only has violated that nation's sovereignty but has also bullishly stepped on all accepted international rights and conventions.

American leaders could have taken lessons from what is now unravelling in Eastern Europe and submit to the "sovereignty of people". Instead, they have opted for taking advantage of the weak position of the Eastern bloc to once again set up the "sovereignty of bayonet". This is indeed most regrettable. This oft-repeated scenario has been tried, and resoundingly failed, in both Vietnam and Afghanistan.

Even if the U.S. manages to suppress the Panamanian people, still it will be the party at the losing end of the string in the long run.

Even the Latin American governments, in spite of their politico-economic ties to the U.S., have had to utterly condemn the American invasion. This is only indicative of the mounting enrage [as published] of the masses in that part of the world against the fake and funny champion of democracy, the U.S.

Commentary on Continued U.S. Presence in Panama

LD0401120890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1100 GMT 4 Jan 90

[Political commentary]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Greetings dear listeners. After 10 days of refuge in the Vatican's diplomatic legation in Panama, Manuel Antonio Noriega has been handed over to U.S. forces. With the handing over of Noreiga, which materialized after lengthy negotiations between the Vatican's legation and the United States, one of the existing obstacles on the U.S. path of meeting its objectives in Panama has been removed. This helps the United States to speedily conclude the Panama crisis in its own interests and in the interest of the stability of the government it has installed there.

Following the U.S. military aggression against Panama and the surrender of Panama's defense forces, Noriega sought sanctuary at the Vatican diplomatic mission in Panama City and requested political asylum. Noriega chose the Vatican Embassy because of the special status of that embassy. While the embassy is a diplomatic legation, it also plays a religious role. For Noriega this reduced the possibility of U.S. forces raiding that embassy or of the handing over of a political refugee. Also, the lack of an extradition treaty between the United States and the Vatican convinced Noriega that he would not be handed over to U.S. forces. Despite all this, however, immediately after Noriega sought sanctuary, U.S. forces encircled the Vatican Embassy in Panama City, and demanded he be handed over. Even though some countries, such as Peru and Cuba, announced that they were ready to grant Noriega political asylum, U.S. forces threatened to arrest Noriega should he leave the Vatican Embassy.

With the positioning of U.S. forces around the Vatican embassy, U.S. officials began negotiations with the Vatican for the handing over of Noriega. At the same time, by resorting to psychological warfare, they created an intolerable situation to force Noreiga to surrender. By surrounding the Vatican embassy and using other threats, the United States showed its intention to arrest Noriega at any price, even though by not entering the Vatican Embassy, the United States tried to show itself as committed to the principle of diplomatic immunity. But the raid on the residence of the Nicaraguan ambassador and the arrest of a Cuban diplomat made it clear that the United States has no respect for diplomatic conventions. It also showed that the reason for the United States not entering the Vatican Embassy was the ongoing negotiations as well as promises given by Vatican officials in connection with creating the conditions for Noriega's being handed over.

U.S. actions in Panama and the blatant disregard for international law by that country, have incited world public opinion against the United States, resulting in its condemnation by international forums and countries of the world. In that connection, the UN General Assembly on 30 December condemned the U.S. action in Panama by a majority of votes, and further sought the withdrawal of U.S. forces from that country. Despite world condemnation of the United States, that country still continues its presence in Panama, and through its direct control is trying to strengthen the foundations of the regime it has installed there.

According to political observers, even though the United States—through its direct military presence—has managed to crush the Panamanian people's resistance, it remains worried about the fate of the installed regime in that country. Therefore, by continuing its military presence in Panama, as well as by substantial economic aid,

the United States is trying to remove all existing obstacles and pressures plaguing the installed regime of Panama, so that, through that regime, it will be able to follow up its objectives in Panama and Latin America.

Allegations of Guards Sent to Romania Denied

LD0301204190 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1840 GMT 3 Jan 90

["pool" item]

[Text] Tehran, Jan 3 (TANJUG)—Iran today categorically denied allegations that it had sent a group of Pasdaran (Islamic Revolutionary Guards) to Bucharest to help Ceausescu's police stifle the people's rebellion against his regime.

A spokesman for the Foreign Ministry's Press and Information Department told TANJUG's correspondent in Tehran that the charges were a form of psychological warfare and a propaganda plot against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Yesterday, Iraq launched reports that a large group of Pasdaran had on December 20 been ordered to Bucharest personally by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani to help Ceausescu's Security forces in the riots which speedily led to his downfall. The report came from the Baghdad-based Organization of Islamic Mojahedin, who have for years been trying to overthrow the government of the Islamic Republic. A communique released by them (?listed) units of Pasdaran, but does not specify what has happened to them or when and how they returned from Romania.

The echoes of Ceausescu's recent visit to Tehran continue to reverberate in the Iranian public and polemics in particular continue unabated.

This obviously unpleasant question is being (?discussed) in a special parliamentary committee.

In yesterday's debate, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati was quite clear in his insistence that the [word indistinct] of Islam and the Islamic Republic are above all else. He stressed that it had been assessed that the positive aspects of Ceausescu's visit greatly outweighed the negative and that there had been no way of predicting his speedy downfall.

Iranian Students Killed, Arrested in Romania

LD0401122790 Tehran IRNA in English 1101 GMT 4 Jan 90

[Text] Bucharest, Jan 4, IRNA—One Iranian student was killed and another wounded in Romania last month, informed sources confirmed Wednesday [3 January].

Iranian students in Romania disclosed that one Iranian named Nik-Khah was shot dead at point blank range by an officer while he was leaving here for a northern Romanian city along with his Romanian wife late last week. The student was killed after he was forced to stop by the soldiers outside of the capital and tied by rope. "Nik-Khah's wife has disclosed the whole story in detail," said the students. Another Iranian student who is wounded in one hand claims that he was shot by Romanian soldiers who arrested him and tried to kill him.

The efforts of the Iranian Embassy here to get information on the condition of several other students who are said to be under arrest have so far failed.

Meanwhile, First Deputy of the Romanian Defence Ministry General Stefan Vacil announced at a press conference Wednesday that several foreign nationals are among the dead.

Some 700 Iranian students are living in Romania, most of whom complain of the sudden change in the attitude of the Romanians towards them. One Iranian said that a Romanian bank teller had refused to pay him cash for no apparent reason.

IRNA correspondent who has visited the cities of Bucharest, Ploesti, Brasov and the villages around the city of Timisoara, believes that although the Romanian public has been aroused against the Arabs and Iranians, the general mass attitude towards Iranians in that country is now far from being hostile.

Majles Challenge to Velayati on Romania Viewed

LD0301173190 (Clandestine) Radio of the Iranian Toilers in Persian 0230 GMT 3 Jan 90

[Text] Dear listeners: As you heard in the news, the infighting among various factions within the Islamic Republic over the visit to Iran of Ceausescu, the destroyed president of Romania, eventually led to Velayati's questioning by the Majles. During the past few days, the Khamene'i-Rafsanjani faction tried very hard to intimidate the radicals who had called for the interpellation and to force them to give up this demand. However, neither Khamene'i's remarks [in a speech supporting the Foreign Ministry] nor the subsequent marshaling of forces in support of his remarks succeeded in extinguishing this extreme case of infighting.

In today's open session of the Majles, Musavi-Lari, on behalf of 84 Majles deputies, put two questions to Velayati about the reasons behind inviting Ceausescu and the reason for allowing the visit to go on. Then the rest of the radicals put more questions to him. In his reply, Velayati first tried to implicate Rafsanjani in this issue and make him a guilty party with the Foreign Ministry. Second, he claimed that the Islamic Republic, despite its relations and contacts with various countries with different ideologies, does not necessarily believe in their legitimacy.

Apart from the contents of the questions and answers which, in turn, demonstrate the depth of the crisis facing the foreign policy of the regime, the questioning of Velayati confirms the fact that factionalism within the

regime is so intense that, first of all, any issue of any degree of importance can intensify the infighting to new heights. Second, no one, including the leader himself and the president, is able any longer to control the infighting among various factions.

The protests by some deputies, including Duzduzani, during the past few days against Khamene'i's threats to violate the rights of the Majles deputies, reveal the decision of the radicals not to submit to threats from the Khamene'i-Rafsanjani faction. On the other hand, the Resalatis [those who support the line of the RESALAT newspaper, mouthpiece of the right-wing faction within the regime], in support of Velayati and the Khamene'i-Rafsanjani faction, have published the names of the questioners and have called them enemies of unity and opponents of the decrees of the supreme jurisconsult.

The factionalism reached such a level of intensity that the radio of the Islamic Republic was forced to broadcast live the questions and answers in the Majles. Immediately after this broadcast, the Khamene'i-Rafsanjani clique, unexpectedly and without any excuse, arranged an interview with akhund [a pejorative term for a mullah] Javadi-Amoli to inflict a new blow upon the enemy. Javadi-Amoli, who, during Khomeyni's lifetime, had carried his message to Gorbachev, said that in his message Khomeyni not only called the Eastern socialist system to Islam but also called upon the Western capitalist system to embrace Islam. These remarks of Amoli were, in fact, a response to the radicals' question to Velayati of why, despite the contents of Khomeyni's letter, the government had relations with the socialist system of Romania. Elsewhere in the interview, Javadi-Amoli described the unity of various factions as the means necessary to implement the views of Khomeyni; and, in fact, he supported the recent remarks made by Khamene'i.

The questioning of Velayati shows that, despite the climate of intimidation which has been created, nearly a third of Majles deputies are determined to take the Foreign Ministry out of the hands of Velayati and his associates, and this is a major headache for the Khamene'i-Rafsanjani clique.

Deputies Send Letter of Support to Khamene'i

LD0301173590 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 3 Jan 90

[Text] Two hundred and seventeen deputies of the Majles, have sent a letter to the leader of the Islamic revolution, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, describing support for the position of the supreme jurisconsult, as the religious and revolutionary duty of every individual. This letter, which was read today from the podium of the Majles, stated: The supreme jurisconsult was one of the permanent aspirations of the late leader of the Islamic revolution, His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may he be admitted to God's paradise, and the foundation of the uprising of that great late leader. As a result of God's grace, the Islamic ummah has witnessed the blessings and fruits of its implementation in the prophetic leadership of his eminence the imam and are now witnessing its continuation in the shadow of Your Eminence's leadership.

Another part of this letter, referring to the remarks of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be sanctified, and His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic revolution, regarding the necessity of the strong presence of the Majles in safeguarding the general interests of the system and towards the implementation of public sovereignty, states: it is natural that the strengthening and consolidation of the system and the powers ruling in it, including the judicial and the executive powers, can be possible only as the result of the implementation of the (?duties of) legislative power. The safeguarding of the honor of Islam and the interests of the people requires the deputies of the people always to defend the rights of the system and the people as aware observers and concerned guardians.

In this letter, the deputies, referring to the fact that they will always defend any organization or institution which acts in the service of the Islamic revolution and the sacred order of the Islamic Republic, have once again expressed their total support for the esteemed position of the supreme jurisconsult and His Eminence's guidelines.

Various Groups Express Support for Khamene'i

LD2912122389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Dec 89

[Text] In the wake of the revealing remarks made by His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, concerning the irresponsible actions that have been taken against the officials of the Islamic Republic, the Association of the Representatives of Religious Students and Scholars of the Qom Seminary issued a statement condemning actions that bring about a weakening of the system. The statement expressed decisive obedience to and support for the rank of the vice-regency of the jurisconsult and for the remarks made by the leader of the Islamic revolution, and particularly the recent remarks by the Muslims' jurisconsult in support of the country's officials.

In addition, in the wake of the statements made by the leader of the Islamic revolution, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, in support of the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Friday Prayers' Central Secratariat sent a cable to His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, condemning any activities by those who try to create divisions, accouncing support for important and caring remarks made by the Muslims' jurisconsult and the valuable statement by the president, and asking the martyr-nurturing people to make an extensive effort for the reconstruction of the country, the foiling of the enemy's ugly conspiracies, and the ending of remarks that create division by safeguarding unity.

The Imam's Relief Committee also issued a statement expressing decisive support for the jewel-like guidance of the Muslims' jurisconsult, placing emphasis on safeguarding unity and solidarity among the Hezbollah ummah and all who serve Islam, and announcing readiness for the implementation of the goals of the leader of the Islamic revolution, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i.

Khamene'i Speaks on Country's Islamic Values

LD0301132590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 3 Jan 90

[Excerpts] During a meeting with a large number of our Muslim compatriots from various cities today, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic Revolution, said in a speech: The values prevailing in our revolutionary society are a reflection of the values of the early days of Islam.

He added: Today, our people feel a sense of greatness. That is a very important phenomenon. The enemies of Islam have constantly striven to make Muslims feel weak and inferior. But after the victory of the Islamic revolution, the sense of inferiority felt by Muslim nations was considerably reduced. Seeing that the Islamic Revolution and the heroic people of Iran decisively and uncompromisingly confronted the most powerful of world powers, the backward nations felt a sense of exhiliration and importance. [passage omitted]

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i attributed the uprising of colonized nations over the past 10 years to the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran. He said: This great revolution brought hope and cheer to those nations. The cruelty shown by world powers and their puppet governments in various parts of the world today testifies to the uprising of the nations. The pro-Islamic wave among various nations—Islamic societies in particular—is alive and powerful. As ever, the enemies of Islam are incapable of combating this turbulent wave.

He described the colonialist powers' claim of being civilized as shameful. He stressed that the cruelty, villainy, and repressive acts of oppressor governments will result in the further awakening of nations. He criticized the U.S. leaders for murder, massacre, and committing acts of overt aggression against weak countries and nations.

The vice-regent of the Muslims described the Iranian people as the most optimistic, powerful, and brave nation in the world. [passage omitted]

Finally, he stressed the importance of all classes of the people maintaining unity of expression in order to cast down the evil enemies of the revolution. [passage omitted]

Khamene'i Appoints Reyshahri Clerical Court Judge

LD0301175190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1600 GMT 3 Jan 90

[Text] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic revolution, in a decree appointed Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Mohammadi-Reyshahri as the prosecutor [dadsetan] of the clerical tribunal. The text of the decree is as follows:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Your Excellency Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Mohammadi Reyshahri, may your successes continue. Following the resignation of His Excellency Hojjat ol-Eslam Val-Moslemin Fallahiyan from the post of prosecutor of the clerical tribunal, and while expressing many thanks for his valuable services and efforts during his tenure in this important position, I appoint your excellency who, thanks to God, possess the scientific and practical qualifications to occupy a worthy place in the system of the Islamic Republic, as prosecutor of that tribunal. The importance of the status and role of religious scholars and members of the clergy in guiding the people and supervising the affairs of the country makes it necessary to show sensitivity and serious concern towards violations and offenses that might be committed by some pseudo-clergymen. The violations should be dealt with decisively and in keeping with Islamic laws. It is hoped that—as already has been witnessed from you, by relying upon God and placing your trust in the judicial justice of Islam—you will accept this grave responsibility. Peace be upon you.
[Signed] Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i
[Dated] 3 January 1990

Gholam-Hoseyn Karbaschi Appointed Tehran Mayor

LD0401084190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 4 Jan 90

[Text] Following the resignation of Mr Tabataba'i from his post as the supervisor of Tehran's City Municipality, Interior Minister Nuri issued an order appointing Mr Gholam-Hoseyn Karbaschi—former governor-general of Esfahan Province—as the mayor of Tehran. The Central News Unit reports the interior minister paid tribute to the efforts and services of Mr Tabataba'i during his engagement as the supervisor of Tehran's City Municipality.

Only Relations of 'Enmity' With Israel Possible

NC3112093889 TEHRAN TIMES in English 21 Dec 89 p 2

[Editorial: "No Relations With Israel But Enmity"]

[Text] Although it was not necessary, it was good that the Iranian mission at the United Nations contradicted an NBC report about Iran selling oil to Israel.

Those who watch Iranian events closely can hardly even imagine that Iran will sell oil to Israel. They also know

that if there are any relations between Iran and Israel at all it can only be one of enmity and nothing else. Such enmity will continue as long as this cancer exists in the heartland of the Islamic land.

It will not be out of place if out of numerous incidents a few are recalled to refresh the memories of the people whose consciences are still alive and those who genuinely know the real nature of the Zionist regime.

One of the revolutionary and Islamic steps the Islamic Repubic did was to order the Zionist diplomats to leave Iran within the shortest possible time. These Israeli diplomats were at the time enjoying special status in the monarchial regime and were forced to quit Iran forever.

With the culmination of the Islamic Reolution, the Moslems in the world in general and the Palestinians in particular expressed their utmost happiness.

If one really sees the record of the struggle of the Moslems against the Zionist regime it may be clear in everybody's mind that the Zionist regime did not have a single day of peace since 1979. These Zionists will never be able to breathe any sigh of relief as long as they continue occupying the holy lands of Islam.

Since the victory of the Islamic Revolution Iran supported the anti-Zionist struggle through diplomatic, financial means and even through actual presence on the scene of volunteer forces. It is crystal clear and the facts need no other proof and speak for themselves.

The Founder of the Islamic Republic Leader of the Islamic Revolution late Imam Khomeyni many times expressed his utmost desire that the Islamic duty of eradication of the Zionist regime may be fulfilled during his lifetime. But God knows what is best and when it is suitable.

The late leader's follower and the present Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i is adamant in the way his great teacher was. His statement is just a sincere echo of what his teacher and leader of the Islamic world who expired on June 3 leaving a comprehensive message of Islam for us, felt on this issue and others.

Here we would like to mention another interesting incident which is also intended to refresh the memories of our readers. In 1986, when the U.S. and Israeli regime were mainly trying to patch up their relations with Iran, the Israelis had sent a planeload of weapons to Tehran. One can imagine that Iran was thirsty and hungry for the weapons at that time as the enemy was getting supplies of these through various other channels. The Iranians were fighting with a minimum of worldly weapons but with firm belief in the Almighty.

In such circumstances, the Islamic Republic authorities ordered the Americans led by U.S. President Ronald Reagan's chief aide Robert McFarlane to take the planeload of weapons back as they came from Israel.

This is a plain fact and the entire Moslem community in the world knows that there can never be any relations between Iran and Israel except it can only be one of enmity.

Editorial Urges Amal-Hizballah Unity

NC0401102690 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 27 Dec 89 p 2

[Editorial: "Amal-Hizballah Clashes Serve the Interests of Enemies"]

[Text] Once again we are witnessing the heightening of bloody conflicts among the two main groups of Lebanon's Shiites, i.e., Hizballah and Amal forces in southern Lebanon.

It is now 10 months since the agreement for unity was signed between Hizballah and Amal through the sponsorship of Syria and the Islamic Republic of Iran. But again and again both sides have violated the peace accord and this has left scores of Muslim people dead and wounded.

It is worth mentioning here that as a result of the latest bloody conflict over 33 people have been left dead. In the meantime the number of Israeli casualties during the 10 months since the signing of the accord has been even less than a fifth of this.

The question that immediately comes to mind following the latest incidents in Lebanon is what are the reasons for the violation of this agreement between the two Shiite groups of Lebanon, and under such historically sensitive and fateful circumstances?

At a time when the political Maronites with all their local and foreign forces are doing everything to prove the political incompetence of Lebanese Muslims, especially the Shiites, why should such incidents take place within the Shiite ranks? And even more important, how the recurring of such bloody conflicts which only serve the Muslim adversaries' interests be prevented? [sentence as published]

To achieve this the Hizballah and Amal should purge the ranks of suspicious and mercenary elements. There are mercenary-type or ignorant elements in both these groups who, by creating minor conflicts such as arrests of the other party's elements or by taking provocative actions such as unneeded inspections, cause clashes to start between the two factions in suburban areas. These clashes gradually spread in the entire territory under the influence of each of the two groups.

The Islamic Republic of Iran should enhance its efforts to unite Amal and Hizballah politically. Independent existence of each of the two groups have conflicting views in dealing with the political issues of their country.

In principle difference of viewpoints on political issues in Lebanon have always led to conflicts. It takes time before opposing parties agree to differ!

Political unity of the two major Lebanese Shiite Muslims groups in addition to strengthening the unity among Shiites in general will also increase Muslim strength vis-a-vis the power-grabbing Maronites. Moreover, such unity also adds up to the strength of the Islamic resistance operations in southern Lebanon against the diabolical designs of the Zionists and Israel.

Editorial Comments on GCC Meeting in Amman

NC3112090389 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 19 Dec 89 p 2

[Editorial: "No Stability Without a Regional Detente"]

[Text] A summit meet, begun since yesterday evening, has once again banded together heads of the six member nations of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council [PGCC] in Amman [as published].

Topping the four-day meet's agenda, aside from trade policies to rebuild their economies, will be efforts at seeking solutions to regional critical issues such as the Lebanese crisis and the Iran-Iraq peace talks.

As far as the peace negotiations are concerned the PGCC's taking up of the topic is doubly sensitive as it comes right in the wake of another round of frustrated talks at the U.N. headquarters between the two countries last week.

The defeat of the negotiations, like in the past, can easily be attributed to the Iraqi obduracy on purely illogical stands. The Security Council is morally bound to explicitly pinpoint the party responsible for the stalling of the peace efforts. It is a right of the world public opinion to know the truth behind the seemingly unbreakable deadlock looming over the U.N. sponsored peace talks.

Yet the PGCC too can surely play a substantial role in convincing Iraq to come to its senses and adopt a logical stand and come off its bullying perch.

If the PGCC is indeed after an economic takeoff, it will have to leave no stone unturned to first secure total regional stability. And this much sought after commodity, stability, will be next to impossible to achieve under no-war-no-peace circumstances now prevailing in the region. Meanwile this should of course not be hidden from anyone that such a situation is highly explosive and volatile. War is always a possibility even a probability just round the corner, if a permanent peace is not securely established.

For a fact however this regional council will have a greater leverage for influencing the events once it adopts a collective friendly policy towards Iran. In other words most members of this council have individually good and friendly relations with the Islamic Republic. Amman, United Arab Emirates and Qatar and to a lesser extent, Kuwait and Bahrain all have rather friendly relations with Iran. But this individual friendship should change into warmer relations with Iran on one side and the council members in their collectivity on the other.

At present in spite of deep ideological diferences the West and East European nations, only out of considerations of their national interests, are batting for a true detente. Why shouldn't countries in this part of the world with multiple common cultural and economic features and political interests hold themselves back from forging ties bolstered by a truly genuine detente?

Economy Minister on Rise in Government Revenue

NC0101191090 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 1 Jan 90

[Text] Dr Mohsen Murbakhsh, minister of economics and finance of the Islamic Republic of Iran, has announced that the Iranian Government's total revenue increased by 46 percent in the last 9 months.

In a statement to reporters, brother Murbakhsh said the budget deficit in the current hegira/solar year [as heard] will fall to approximately half of what it was last year. The economics and finance minister believes that the budget will be balanced if the government continues its current economic policies.

Dr Murbakhsh added that the cash in circulation in the current hegira/solar year will be much less than in the previous year, noting that a drop in the cash liquidity ratio is among the objectives pursued by the government. The minister of economics pointed out that, under the measures adopted by the government, efforts will be made to prevent the accumulation of individual quotas [hisas fardiyah] by individuals. The workers and employees of the companies registered in the stock exchange will be given precedence in obtaining shares.

Foreign Exchange Provisions of 5-Year Plan Noted

LD0201112790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 2 Jan 89

[Text] Mr Alviri, a member of the Majles Presidium and head of the Majles Budget and Planning Commission has spoken about measures approved by the Majles in connection with the bill for the country's 5-year social, economic, and cultural expansion plan. Please listen to the report:

[Begin Alviri recording] Article 29 is our most important article from the viewpoint of foreign exchange because foreign exchange policies of the 5-year plan are defined in that article. The most important points raised and examined in it are: one, about the foreign exchange [words indistinct] to the effect that permission has been given for an annual amount of foreign exchange—the amount will be stipulated in each year's budget—to be given to exporters so they may export their export products; they will repay that foreign currency from their income.

Another point raised in Article 29 is that it has been made incumbent on all ministries to draw up their agreements with foreign companies and contractors so that by the end of the plan, an amount of $2.5 billion

added value is created inside the country through the cooperation which takes place here with foreign companies. This will, in fact, prevent the possibility of development projects being undertaken directly by foreign companies.

Another point raised in the article concerns a measure called project financing in which the Majles has given permission for the government to act on the basis of $9 billion—in the course of the 5-year plan—for the establishment of production and industrial units by foreign companies, so to speak and to repay that investment in 5-year installments after those units have begun operating. Of that $9 billion, $1.5 billion relates to the establishment of five agro-industrial units and related production units in Khuzestan, and the rest is mainly related to the industrial-mining sector, with some to go to other sectors.

Another point foreseen in article 29 is the authorization to use $3 billion of foreign resources for the construction of four important dams: Karun-3 dam, the Karun-5 current dam, Karkheh dam and Gavishan dam and related tunnel. The construction of the dams will bring nearly 300,000 hectares of land under cultivation and will produce about 5,000 megawatts of electricity. [end recording]

Editorial Views Effects of Dual Exchange Rate

NC2412111089 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 16 Dec 89 p 2

[Editorial: Government's Dual Rate of Foreign Exchange Disturbs the Market"]

[Text] Very recently over the last week the Central Bank officially announced what was said to be a special service rate for the dollar intended for use by patients leaving the country, and students who receive no grants in foreign countries. In effect this meant that those entitled would be able to buy their dollars at 845 rials to a dollar. This figure is in excess of 45 rials earlier allowed to importers for obtaining foreign exchange at what was called a competitive rate—meaning a rate lower than the prevailing open market rate that now has zoomed to the 1,100 rial level.

Some economists warned earlier that the decision to have a system of dual rates could only increase the momentum of the open market trade exchange dealings with a consequent rise in the rates in a tricky market. The TEHRAN TIMES in its editorial on Saturday last [9 December] gave out the same warning. What in reality happened was that there was a rush by those entitled to buy dollars at the competitive exchange rate to take the fullest advantage from dealers downtown. And this naturally gave a fillip to the open market rate as a simple consequence of higher demand for dollars.

As for those wanting to take advantage of the new service rates, here again the 300 dollars allowance per passenger can only tempt those who may be permitted such exchange to venture abroad for one reason or another and benefit in one way or another through an advantageous rate. But this "pocket money" can hardly be enough, or hardly satisfy those in real need for foreign exchange at reasonable rates. So the foreign exchange ghouls will still be there to help them out!

All that has been said above can be borne out by the abrupt surge in the open market exchange rate to 1,100 rials per dollar as it now stands and refuses to budge lower down the scale. Hence what help?

If the government really wishes to make a clean sweep of the foreign exchange market and bring it under rational control, then it will have to quickly work out other measures. It is only by doing this that the excessive stockpiles of rials (cash flow) in the hands of the private speculator can be drawn out and brought into circulation and channelled into productive investment. It is only some such measures as will help to do this that can profit the national economy and reduce the deficit the government faces in its national budget. Just now the speculation in the money market appears to be leading nowhere and this trend has to be arrested and sense brought into money-market operations.

Pakistan

Foreign Minister Discusses Afghanistan, Kashmir

BK0401095690 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0900 GMT 4 Jan 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan has said the main objective of Pakistan's policy on Afghanistan is to promote peace and stability in that country in order to enable the Afghan refugees to return home safely with dignity and honor. The foreign minister was answering a point raised by the members in the Senate today during discussion on the president's address to the joint session of Parliament. He said the solution to the Afghanistan issue relies on the formation of a government which is acceptable to all segments of Afghan society. Although the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan has been completed, the outcome of a prolonged occupation of a foreign power is present in the form of Dr Najibullah's illegal regime.

The foreign minister also referred to Indo-Pakistan relations, Kashmir, Siachen, and Wular Barrage issues after the formation of the National Front government in India under the leadership of V.P. Singh.

He said the government is sending Pakistan's Ambassador to the Soviet Union Abdus Sattar as the prime minister's special emissary to New Delhi for talks with the new Indian leadership.

Earlier, the House resumed discussion on the president's address to the joint session of parliament. The Senate session has now been adjourned sine die.

Awami Official Says Najibullah 'Ready To Quit'

BK0401110090 Karachi DAWN in English 4 Jan 90 p 12

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 3—Khan Abdul Wali Khan, Chief of the Awami Nation Party (ANP), has said that head of the Kabul regime, Dr Najibullah, is ready to quit his office provided he is assured that bloodshed in Afghanistan will come to an end.

Taking part in the National Assembly debate on Wednesday [3 January] on President's address to the joint sitting of the Parliament, Mr Khan, however, questioned that after Najib who will fill the vacuum in the war torn country.

Wali Khan disclosed that Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto had asked him some time back to press Dr Najibullah to quit but he asked who ensure that there would be peace in Afghanistan.

He said: Not only Kabul and Afghan army is in control of Najib but Non-aligned Movement and 84 countries of the world also recognise him as Afghan head of the state. Moreover, his army won the battle of Jalalabad and now resistance groups are fighting against each other. They are executing their own commanders, he went on to say.

Nasrullah: Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, MNA [member of National Assembly] and President of Pakistan democratic Party participating in the debate called for promoting healthy democratic traditions and an end to ongoing confrontation for the success the democratic process revived in the country after a long struggle.

He said it is painful that such negative traditions are being established in the country which may prove fatal to democratic institutions.

Defense Official Receives Chinese-Built Ships

BK2912161889 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 29 Dec 89

[Text] Two Chinese-built naval ships were handed over to Minister of State for Defense Colonel, retired, Ghulam Sarwar Cheema at a function in the Chinese coastal city of Canton today. These vessels have been built at the Guangzhou shipyard for the Maritime Security Agency of Pakistan. The minister of state inaugurated the new naval ships by unfurling the Pakistani flag and unveiling the name plates. The vessels, "MSS Barkat" and "MSS Rahmat," will sail for Pakistan in February next year.

50 Arrested in Police Raid on Student Hostels

BK0301134890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1331 GMT 3 Jan 90

[Text] Karachi, Jan 3 (AFP)—More than 50 people were arrested as Pakistani police launched a pre-dawn sweep on Karachi's student hostels Wednesday [3 January] to seize illegal weapons, police said.

Police seized at least 60 automatic weapons, including six Kalashnikov rifles, and arrested 56 students and a number of outsiders belonging to different political groups, officials said. Those arrested included activists of the ruling Pakistan Peoples Party's student wing, as well as members of the radical Jiye Sind organization. Students belonging to the Muhajir Qaumi movement representing Urdu-speaking settlers from India were also arrested, police said.

Informed sources said the decision to raid the student hostels was taken during a high level meeting headed by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto recently.

Wednesday's raid on hostels, conducted by paramilitary Sindhi rangers and police units, may be followed up in other areas affected by the deteriorating law and order situation in Sind Province, the sources said.

In related matters, seven people were arrested in Hyderabad, 160 kilometers (100 miles) north of here, who were allegedly involved in recent riots, murders, acts of banditry and arson, officials said.

Thirty people were rounded up last week by security forces there in operations against anti-social elements and drug traffickers. Automatic weapons were recovered during the operation.

Sri Lanka

Wijeratne: Withdrawal Deadline 'Unacceptable'

BK0401113590 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1026 GMT 4 Jan 90

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 4 Jan (LANKAPUVATH)—Sri Lankan Foreign Minister and Minister of State for Defence Ranjan Wijeratne said at his weekly cabinet news briefing today, shortly before his departure to New Delhi, that he was taking a special message from President Ranasinghe Premadasa to the Indian prime minister, Vishwanath Pratap Singh. Mr Wijeratne said that he will be meeting his Indian counterpart Inder Kumar Gujral tomorrow.

In answer to a question, Mr Wijeratne said that, on his last visit he met Indian Prime Minister Pratap Singh at very short notice and if the Indian prime minister, who is a very busy man, had the time and wished to see him he will gladly see him too.

In answer to another question, the Sri Lankan minister of foreign affairs and minister of state for defence said that the March 31 deadline announced by India for the complete withdrawal of the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] from Sri Lanka was unacceptable.

Mr Wijeratne said that Sri Lankan security forces were responsible for maintaining law and order in areas vacated by the IPKF. The residents of these areas appear to be happy and satisfied with these arrangements.

"They are fed-up with gunmanship," he said.

In answer to a question, Mr Wijeratne said that clashes between rival Tamil groups in the north and east had been reported. But, these fights were in jungles, and not in places where there was a presence of Sri Lankan security forces.

Associated with Mr Wijeratne at today's cabinet news briefing were Minister of State for Information A.J. Ranasinghe; and Secretary of Ministry of State for Defence General Cyril Ranatunge.

Army Frees 200 Tamil TNA 'Conscripts'

BK3112084589 Hong Kong AFP in English 0828 GMT 31 Dec 89

[Text] Colombo, Dec 31 (AFP)—The Sri Lankan Army Sunday freed some 220 Tamils, including four women, who had been forcibly conscripted by a militant group in the island's northeast, district officials said.

The youths who had been conscripted to a so called Tamil National Army (TNA) reportedly surrendered to local troops in eastern Minneriya region after bloody clashes with a rival guerrilla group last week.

"The army brought the men to Trincomalee in three buses. They will be released to their parents or guardians soon," a district official in the area, 250 kilometers (156 miles) northeast of here, said by telephone.

He said the Tamils were handed over to the main civil administrator in the region, Karunadasa Udage, in front of Indian military commanders.

The North-Eastern Militia (NEA), another term for the TNA, had earlier demanded their release, saying they had not surrendered but were captured after agreeing to a ceasefire with rivals in Eastern Region last week.

There had been fierce clashes between the TNA and the dominant Tamil guerrilla group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), in areas vacated by Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) troops, leaving hundreds dead.

Both sides have been battling for supremacy as the IPKF withdrew from eastern Batticaloa and Ampara Districts and northern Vavuniya and Northwestern Mannar regions.

The IPKF was first deployed in July 1987 in line with an agreement between New Delhi and Columbo which sought to end a bloody Tamil separatist campaign led by the LTTE.

JVP Political, Military Wing Leaders Arrested

BK0301120890 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 3 Jan 90

[Text] The political and military wing leaders of the JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna—People's Liberation Front] in Udugampaha area have been arrested by the Giriulla police. According to the police, they have been able to solve several poltical murders, which occurred in the Gampaha area, following the arrest of the two men who were operating from their headquarters in Gampaha.

Police said the military wing leader named Chandrapala was arrested while travelling in a bus between (Nagamala) and Giriulla and on information provided by him they were able to track down the political wing leader, Somasiri.

Police have also questioned a woman of a house in which Somasiri had been staying at the time of his arrest.

Government Communique on Arrests, Arms Recovery

BK0401113990 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1020 GMT 4 Jan 90

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 4 Jan (LANKAPUVATH)—Sri Lankan security forces conducting a search operation at Divulapitiya in the Gampaha District, Western Province, recovered a large haul of weapons yesterday.

A government communique issued today states that during an operation conducted by the security forces at Divulapitiya, thirteen 12-bore shotguns, seven 16-bore shotguns, cordwire, gun powder, gelignite and a telephone were recovered from a JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna—People's Liberation Front] safe house. One subversive gave himself up to the security forces from the same area.

In the Southern Province at Hambantotal, police shot and killed a subversive who attempted to grab a weapons from a policeman.

At Badulla, in the Uva Province, two subversives attempting to set fire to a SLTB [Sri Lanka Transport Board] bus at Liyanagahawela were arrested by security forces.

During a cordon and search operation in the same area, security forces arrested one subversive while another subversive in custody of the security forces has confessed having collected monies for the JVP and handed over 17,500 rupees. At Medapatha and Uduwara, security forces arrested three subversives and recovered three muzzle loading guns.

In the Northern Province, at Mannar, 10 armed EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front] members robbed cash and textiles from a residence at Periakunchikulam during a fire fight between LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] and PLOTE [People's Liberation Organization of Tamil Eelam]. Forty eight PLOTE members were killed and 22 apprehended by the LTTE. Two LTTE members were also killed and seven injured, the communique added.

President's, Prime Minister's New Year Messages

BK0101120290 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 1 Jan 90

[Text] President R. Premadasa in a new year message to the nation states that the entry to another new year is an extraordinary event as we are entering the last decade of the 20th century. He points out that the year we are leaving behind has seen constructive achievements and destructive disruptions. All over people have been tested by many trials. Our people have emerged stronger with more faith in the present and the future. It was a great test of endurance for our freedom-loving people. It was a triumph for democracy. It proved the resilience of our economy. It signaled the victory of right over might. The president says that his heartfelt sympathy embraces all those who lost their near and dear ones. The Armed Forces and the police have earned the nation's appreciation and gratitude. They gave their lives with bravery to protect our freedom.

He adds that it would be recalled that he sought the mandate of the people exactly a year ago. In taking this mandate, he promised a new vision and a new zeal and promised the restoration of peace through consultation, compromise, and consensus. He also promised to enforce discipline through the restoration of moral values and strict application of the rule of law and a total package of poverty alleviation through the restructuring of the political, economic, social, and administrative systems. The president adds that in all these areas, within a short period of 1 year, the country has made steady progress.

In the coming year, the president intends to give all the programs and projects a new meaning and a dynamic dimension. These projects are to be designed and executed with the sole objective of uplifting the poor and underprivileged in society. The president observes that all these projects should have built-in components of caring and sharing. The president says that all should learn to be large-hearted and generous toward all humanity. He expresses the hope that the country will be able to reach our cherished goal of reconciliation, reconstruction, and rehabilitation during the year that has dawned.

In his new year message, Prime Minister D.B. Wijetunge says that the end of a year and the dawn of another is an opportune moment to think over achievements and failures and to take appropriate actions to improve future activities. The year that has now passed into history has not been an easy one for our countrymen. We have had many difficulties and setbacks. But we have had our successes and achievements as well. The prime minister says what should however cause the greatest concern among all of us is the needless waste of life and property that has taken place during these past years. He adds the selfish violence has destroyed national property and assets. He notes that the youth have been misguided. It is one of the lessons of prudence and wisdom to learn from one's mistakes in the past. He therefore urges everyone to make up their minds, make a solemn pledge to themselves to make a determined effort to end all the destructions in the coming year. The prime minister points out: From destruction, let us turn to reconstruction and reconciliation.